

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) prepared this plan on behalf of the Town of Walpole in close coordination with Walpole staff and leadership.

Funding for this plan was made possible through a grant made to the Town of Walpole from the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Additional funding was provided from Planning for MetroFuture Technical Assistance (PMTA) from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

Cover Image: Adams Farm photo by MAPC

Contents

Section 1: Plan Summary	page	05
Section 2: Introduction		07
Section 3: Community Setting		11
Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis		25
Section 5: Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Lands		43
Section 6: Community Vision		57
Section 7: Analysis of Needs		59
Section 8: Goals and Objectives		67
Section 9: Seven-Year Action Plan		71
Appendix Section A: Public Comments		A5
Section B: Survey Results		A15
Section C: ADA Accessibility Self-Evaluation		A57



Section 1: Plan Summary

The 2020 Town of Walpole Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) has been prepared to guide Town Staff, committees, boards, and commissions working to support open space, conservation, and recreation in the Town of Walpole. The plan provides an update to the previous Open Space and Recreation Plan prepared by the Town in 2011. A Core Group comprised of town staff and leadership guided the development of this plan. The process to develop the plan and the writing of the plan was facilitated by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). MAPC is the regional planning agency serving the 101 cities and towns of Metropolitan Boston. During this process, MAPC facilitated two public forums, coordinated Core Group meetings, met with staff from the Town of Walpole, and completed a community survey. All of these activities have been used to understand the goals and objectives of the community in regard to open space and recreation and each source of input has contributed to the content of this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The Town of Walpole enjoys a great variety of open space, conservation and recreation resources. The resources include Adams Farm, Town Forest, Bird Park, scenic ponds, fields and playgrounds, and trail connections with a total of 50 miles of trails and, such as the regional Bay Circuit Trail, and 4,000 acres of land with various levels of protection. The Trust for Public Land compiles statistics as part of their "Park Score" program. It shows that 50% of Walpole residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, compared to the national average of 55%. It also shows that 14% of Walpole's land is used for parks, compared to a national median of 15%.

One of the most important challenges highlighted by the community survey is not the lack of resources, but the lack of knowledge about the resources available. Survey respondents reported that not knowing about resource locations or access to trails or other facilities were the biggest impediments to using Walpole's open space amenities. An inventory of all resources is included in this Open Space and Recreation Plan. The inventory serves both as a way to share knowledge about the resources and as a foundation for the Seven-Year Action Plan of the OSRP. The Seven-Year Action Plan provides detailed steps for achieving the goals outlined below. Once approved by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the OSRP will open funding opportunities for the town related to open space and recreation.

Throughout this process the Walpole community has confirmed the importance of open space and recreation to the town. The Community Survey received 376 responses and reaffirmed community values around open space. 77% of respondents strongly agree that preserving Walpole's open space and natural areas is important to them. The importance of conservation was underlined by 74% of respondents strongly agreeing that Walpole needs to proactively preserve what open space is left. Indicating some room for improvement, 65% of respondents strongly agree that Walpole's existing open space and recreational amenities contribute positively to overall quality of life. Defining where some of that improvement may occur, 65% of the respondents strongly agree that Walpole needs to proactively plan for the recreational needs of its residents.

A Vision Statement regarding Walpole's open space and recreation resources has been prepared through this process. That Vision Statement is as follows:

Vision Statement

Walpole's vision for Open Space and Recreation is a Town with a green open space network with walking and bike trails that connect a series of recreational fields and other community amenities, as well as provide access to natural areas and the town's abundant ponds.

The vision includes an abundance of clean drinking water from our Town wells and other groundwater sources.

The vision includes an abundance of playing fields for youth and adults where overuse does not exist.

The vision includes clean water resources (rivers, ponds, streams, wetlands, and aquifers) for today and the future; where our ponds are clear and free of nuisance aquatic vegetation and available for fishing, boating, skating and other passive recreational uses.

This vision includes walking trails and canoe launches along the Neponset River; trails for dog walking and bird watching; and habitat for wildlife.

This vision includes a Walpole with a mixture of the new and the old; where our most significant natural, historic, and cultural resources are saved for future generations.

The Town of Walpole has articulated goals that define the Open Space and Recreation Plan. These goals are detailed with objectives and each objective is associated with actions that can be undertaken to advance the goals and objective. The OSRP goals begin with an overarching General Goal and then have been categorized as Conservation Goals or Recreation Goals including:

General Goal

"To preserve and enhance the overall quality of the natural and cultural environment within the Town of Walpole while providing a well maintained system of parks, recreation facilities and conservation lands, trails, town forest, ponds and other lands subject to land restrictions that meet the diverse needs of the community and contribute to making Walpole a healthier community."

Conservation Goals

- Goal 1: Protect and improve the quality of Walpole's surface and ground water.
- Goal 2: Protect and encourage preservation of the Town's natural and cultural resources and passive recreation amenities.
- Goal 3: Maintain and manage existing Town open space land.

Recreation Goals

- Goal 4: Continue to expand recreational facilities to provide a wide variety of active recreation opportunities to encourage a healthy and active community.
- Goal 5: Maintain and manage existing recreation facilities.

Section 2: Introduction

Statement of Purpose

The Town of Walpole is a spirited community with a small town feel and community-oriented values. Walpole like many New England communities has changed over time adapting as changes in industrial and commercial needs, transportation needs, and residential needs evolved. However, parts of Walpole have changed little. The new and the old, the contemporary and the historic, are parts of Walpole's charm and form the context for this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Walpole's resources are diverse and so are its needs. Walpole has always sought to balance the need to acquire and preserve its natural resources with its needs to be fiscally responsible. The 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan seeks to maintain this balance and respond to the needs of the Town by preserving its historic, cultural, and natural treasures, by maintaining open space areas already owned, by protecting groundwater for drinking water, and by thinking ahead to provide opportunities for residents to enjoy both open space areas and recreational facilities in the future.

Why was this plan written?

The 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan was undertaken to update and renew the Town's previous 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan. While many aspects of the previous plan remain relevant and valid, this current plan updated the progress made against actions previously identified, updated the plan with current data and analysis, and reassessed the community's priorities. Another important aspect of this plan is to produce a document that will be formally approved by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Division

of Conservation Services (DCS). The previous 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan did not complete this process leaving additional grant resources unavailable to the town. This current plan will be used to complete that process of review and validation with DCS.

What is open space?

Open space is undeveloped land that is either left in its natural state or improved for use for recreation or agriculture. This land is often accessible to the public and usually without buildings or structures. Open space is typically divided into two categories – conservation lands and recreation resources.

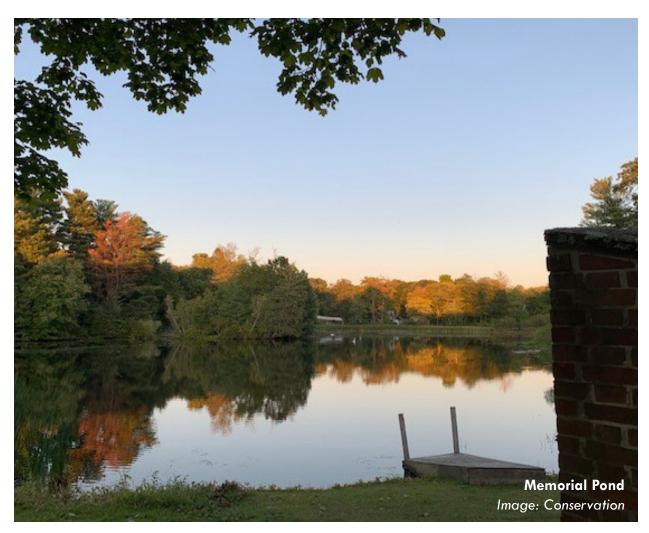
Conservation land is usually left in its natural state and is often, but not always, open to the public. Conservation lands may include animal and plant habitats, water resources and aquifer protection, and other natural, historical or cultural features.

Recreation resources support activity. Active recreation land supports activities for team sports, tennis, swimming, golf, or other competitive sports taking place in or on developed facilities. Passive recreation is defined as any activity that can be performed outdoors with a minimum disturbance to an area's natural resources. Examples of passive recreation include hiking, picnicking, canoeing, ice-skating, cross country skiing, and informal sports on an open field. Conservation land may offer passive recreation opportunities. This Open Space and Recreation Plan defines an inventory of both active and passive recreation areas, as well as other types of open spaces that serve conservation purposes or that protect other historic or cultural features. An inventory of the Walpole open space resources is documented in Section 5.

Planning Process and Community Participation

The Town of Walpole supported the development of this plan through the guidance and supervision of a Core Group comprised of town staff and leadership. The overall process and Core Group meetings were managed and coordinated by Landis Hershey, the Town's Conservation Agent. During the process, the Core Group met regularly with MAPC staff to review and contribute to elements of the plan and to assist with community engagement. All meetings were publicly posted. The Core Group consisted of the following members (in alphabetical order by last name):

- Brendan Croak, Recreation Director
- Drew Hand, Superintendent of Highway, DPW
- Landis Hershey, Conservation Agent
- Sara Khatib, Planning Board
- Jim Johnson, Town Administrator
- Glenn Maffei, Board of Sewer and Water Commissioners and Trails Committee
- Kerri McManama, Director Council on Aging
- Justin Monta, Superintendent Parks and Cemeteries, Tree Warden
- Gary Riggott, Trails Committee
- Patrick Shields, Assistant Town Administrator
- Jack Wiley, Chair Conservation Commission and Adams Farm Committee
- Michael Yanovitch, Building Inspector



The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) facilitated the process. MAPC provided project management, technical analysis, and community engagement assistance to advance the planning process and prepare the plan document. The preparation of the plan was made possible by grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and MAPC Technical Assistance. An Open Space and Recreation Survey was developed and was available for over a month. The public survey was advertised on the town website, Facebook page, and Twitter account. The survey was also advertised at Town Hall and announced at Conservation Commission meetings. The survey received 376 responses from community participants.

Enhanced Outreach and Public Participation

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and other state agencies have been implementing an Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy since 2002 to help ensure that all Massachusetts residents experience equal protection and meaningful involvement with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits. This policy was instituted because the Commonwealth realized that low to moderate income residents in densely populated older industrial areas often lack open space and recreation resources and may live near old, abandoned, and/or contaminated sites that can pose risks to public health and the environment.

Environmental justice is an integral consideration in all EEA programs, to the extent applicable and allowable by law. The Environmental Justice Executive Order No. 552 requires Secretariats to take action in promoting environmental justice. The Executive

Order requires new environmental justice strategies that promote positive impacts in EJ communities. For example, EOEEA has now amended the LAND grant program regulations to incorporate environmental justice in the award scoring system. Similarly, the Riverways and the Massachusetts Environmental Trust will work with EOEEA to develop systems for incorporating environmental justice as a criterion for awarding grants. The EOEEA also has determined to target its resources to more effectively create, restore, and maintain open spaces located in neighborhoods where EJ populations reside.

Environmental Justice Populations in Massachusetts are determined by the following criteria:

- Households earn 65% or less of the statewide household median income; or
- 25% or more of the residents are minority; or
- 25% or more of the residents are foreign-born; or
- 25% or more of the residents are lacking English language proficiency

By these criteria, 137 municipalities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts include an Environmental Justice Population, as identified through analysis by MassGIS. The Town of Walpole is not one of these communities and does not include an Environmental Justice Population. The most recent analysis completed by MassGIS (Bureau of Geographic Information), using data from the 2010 Census and ACS 2010 5-year Estimates, identifies no block groups within Walpole that meet one or more of the environmental justice criteria, including foreign-born, minority population, and income. A map of the Environmental Justice block groups in Walpole and further discussion of EJ populations in neighboring municipalities is included in Section 3: Community Setting.



Section 3: Community Setting

Regional Context

The Town of Walpole is located in Boston metropolitan area, southwest of Boston, in Norfolk County. The town is about 19 miles south of Boston and 26 miles north of Providence, Rhode Island. The Town of Walpole shares municipal boundaries with the towns of Dover, Westwood, Norwood, Sharon, Foxborough, Norfolk, and Medfield. Walpole is among the largest of these communities by size of population.

Interstate 95 and U.S. Route 1, both of which are located near the eastern boundary of the town, provide regional access to the town. State Routes 1A and 27 provide more direct local access to the town. State Route 1A bisects the town roughly from north to south. State Route 27 bisects the town roughly from east to west. The two state routes meet at the center of the municipality in the Town Center. The Franklin Commuter Rail Line passes through Walpole to provide regional rail access with a station in Town Center and Plimptonville, a station north of Town Center. Both stations are also part of the Foxboro Commuter Rail Line Pilot. A CSX line that runs perpendicular to the commuter rail line provides regional freight access.

Walpole's Town Center is a regional hub of economic activity that offers amenities and services to the town and surrounding communities. The Town Center is also the center of municipal facilities and services with the Town Hall, Senior Center, Public Safety, and Library. Walpole also has significant commercial and industrial development along Route 1 that serves the residents of the town and surrounding communities. These commercial and industrial establishments are also home to a significant number of jobs that are clustered along the Route 1 corridor. In

addition to these major centers of activity, the Town has a pattern of dispersed village centers including East Walpole, South Walpole, and Plimptonville that all contribute to the character, services, and amenities of the town.

Aside from these features, the remainder of the town is a mix of a variety of residential neighborhoods and areas that retain a rural character. The residential neighborhoods are densest near Town Center and East Walpole. The northern part of the town remains the most rural in character due to the Town-owned Adams Farm property and the land associated with the Norfolk County Agricultural High School.

Walpole is host to a major regional resource in the Norfolk County Agricultural High School. It enrolls over 500 students from the 28 towns in Norfolk County and is situated on 365 acres in Walpole. Walpole is also host to a state correctional facility, the Massachusetts Correctional Institution Cedar Junction. It is a maximum-security reception and diagnostic center with a medium-security component and large open space parcel.

Regional Planning Context

Walpole is one of the 101 cities and towns located within the greater Boston metropolitan region. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the regional planning agency, serves the region. Each municipality in the region belongs to one of eight subregions. Walpole is a member of the Three Rivers Interlocal Council (TRIC). Council membership consists of community representatives, gubernatorial appointees, and city and state agencies that collaborate around issues of regional importance. MAPC's professional planners provide technical assistance to member communities through the development of

comprehensive plans and recommendations in areas of land use, transportation, economic development, public health, environment, and more.

MAPC is currently leading a regional planning process called MetroCommon 2050 that is an update to the regional plan. The current plan, MetroFuture, was adopted in 2008 and is used by MAPC and municipalities to coordinate local planning efforts. Once completed and adopted the new regional plan will be used for this type of coordination. MetroFuture guides the work of MAPC agency-wide and every project MAPC undertakes works towards reaching the goals defined in the plan. Many of the 65 goals defined in MetroFuture are applicable to the Walpole Open Space and Recreation Plan, including:

- Goal 7 Cities, towns, and neighborhoods will retain their sense of uniqueness and community character.
- Goal 8 Historic resources will be preserved and enhanced.
- Goal 9 The region's landscape will retain its distinctive green spaces and working farms.
- Goal 11 The region will be prepared for and resilient to natural disasters and climate change.
- Goal 23 All neighborhoods will have access to safe and well-maintained parks, community gardens, and appropriate play spaces for children and youth.
- Goal 25 Most residents will build regular physical activity into their daily lives.
- Goal 42 The region's agricultural economy will grow through a focus on sustainable farming and by bringing more locally produced foods to the market.
- Goal 61 Water resources will be carefully budgeted and sustainably managed so that clean water is available for appropriate uses and development.
- Goal 62 The region's rivers, streams, lakes,

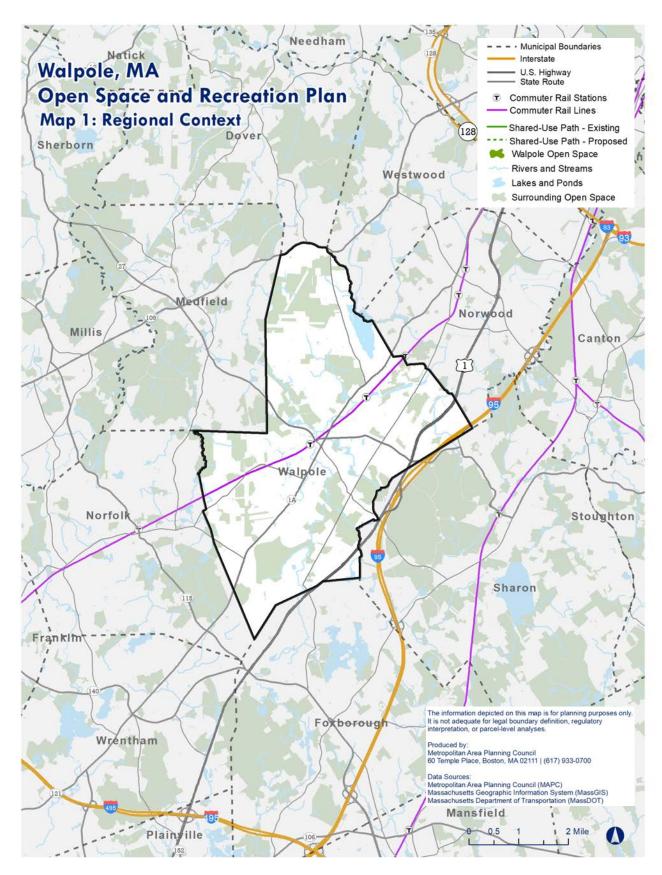
- and ponds will have sufficient clean water to support healthy populations of native fish and other species, as well as recreational uses.
- Goal 63 The ecological condition of wetlands will improve, and fewer wetlands will be lost to development.
- Goal 64 The region will retain its biodiversity and will have healthy populations of native plants and animals, and fewer invasive species.
- Goal 65 A robust network of protected open spaces, farms, parks, and greenways will provide wildlife habitat, ecological benefits, recreational opportunities, and scenic beauty.

In addition to regional planning documents from MAPC, neighboring municipalities have local plans that represent opportunities for municipal collaboration. In the immediate vicinity of Walpole, the town of Norfolk has recently completed an Open Space and Recreation Plan. A full listing of neighboring municipalities Open Space and Recreation Plans and the date of the most recently completed plan include:

- Town of Dover (2011)
- Town of Westwood (2019)
- Town of Norwood (2020)
- Town of Sharon (2010)
- Town of Foxborough (2011, an update is underway)
- Town of Norfolk (2017)
- Town of Medfield (2016)

History of Community

The history of Walpole began long before records of any type were being kept. The next section on geology points to the long history of the land and the natural resources that this plan is intended to steward. The histories of people on that land began with the indigenous populations of the area. The area that is now called Walpole was originally territory claimed by the Neponset Native American tribe. The rocky uplands and cedar



swamps provided a natural buffer between the Neponset tribes to the east and the Wampanoag and Narragansett tribes to the south and west. Artifacts from the activities of these indigenous populations have been found near Plimptonville and Hilltop Farm and a native village site has been identified along the river in South Walpole (Town of Walpole, 1987).

The first European settlers arrived between 1660 and 1670 to live on the high ground between the Neponset River and Spring Brook. They harvested cedar from the cedar swamps, or were subsistence farmers. During the Colonial Period (1676-1776) the population increased to nearly 1,000 people, most of who were engaged in agriculture during the summer and lumbering during the winter. Mills were built on the Neponset and other streams to process local products. Forges and smelters were also constructed to process bog iron. Several two-story central chimney houses and Cape Cod cottages that were built during this period still remain in the town. A lime kiln from this era has also been excavated in West Walpole (Town of Walpole, 1987).

In 1724 the town was set off from Dedham and named for Sir Robert Walpole. Walpole was an eminent English statesman and political leader. The first town meeting was held in Walpole on December 24, 1724. At this time, the town had two prominent trails that were traveled by foot or horseback and used in carting lumber from the cedar swamps to the old sawmill. The paths of the trails are distinguished to this day and were known as "the Old Post Road" where Pleasant Street passes through East Walpole on through to Foxborough and Attleboro. The other trail passing through Walpole Center was "the Old Saw Mill Road" it followed the Medfield Trail from Dedham through Westwood to North Street and Main Street to the Walpole

Common, from there it went from West Street and then to King Philip's Road to Wrentham (History of Walpole, Maude Greaves).

During the Federal Period (1775-1830), the small mills developed into established industries, producing cotton, wool, paper and agricultural implements. The Town Center continued to develop and villages were created in South Walpole and East Walpole. The Town continued to grow with the region. Following this period, railroads developed, commercial and industrial activities grew, and the population of the town grew. Mary Bird started a small library in East Walpole in 1876. The Town Hall was completed in 1881 at a cost of \$30,000 dollars. In 1893, the town authorized to supply its inhabitants with water, using the water of Spring Brook, Trap Hole Brook, Mill Brook, and artesian or driven wells (History of Walpole, Maude Greaves). At the beginning of the twentieth century, trolleys fostered suburban development that continued into the remainder of the century and accelerated with the popularization of the automobile and development of a regional highway network that offers convenient connections to Walpole via Interstate 95 and Route 1 (Town of Walpole, 1987).

Demographic Context Population Trends

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the residential population of Walpole was 24,070. The population of the town has seen continued growth over most of the past century. From 1920 to 1970 the town grew rapidly with the most substantial growth in the 1950's when the population grew 54.44% or nearly 5,000 residents in a decade. Between 1950 and 1970, the population of the town doubled. The population has continued to grow in more recent decades, but not at that peak pace. Total town population increased by nearly 20% between 1990 and 2010.

The analysis of population trends in Walpole was developed for the recently completed update to the town's Housing Production Plan in 2019. Walpole's total population, using estimates from the 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 2012-2016, 5-Year Estimates, is 24,913. This reflects an increase of 843 since 2010. At a total of 21.0 square miles of area, the population density of the town is 1,186 residents per square mile. This data shows that the population in Walpole is aging with most age cohorts under 55 years declining and most age cohorts over 55 years increasing in size.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) has prepared population projections through 2030 for the Metropolitan Boston region. These projections are based on two scenarios: Status Quo, based on the continuation of existing rates of births, death, migration, and housing occupancy; and a Stronger Region that assumes higher population growth, greater housing demand, and a larger workforce. Specifically, the Stronger Region scenario assumes that in the coming years:

- The region will attract and retain more people, especially young adults, than it does today;
- Younger householders (born after 1980) will be more inclined toward urban living than were their predecessors, and less likely to seek out single family homes; and
- An increasing share of senior-headed households will choose to downsize from single family home to apartments and condominiums.

The Status Quo projections show that Walpole's population is to remain relatively stable through 2030, increasing by 2.9 percent. The Stronger Region projections show a 7% population increase between 2010 and 2030 with a projected population in 2030 of 26,333. In addition to projections by total

population, the projections are also made by the measure of a household. A household consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit. Household numbers increased over 30% between 1990 and 2010. The Stronger Region projections show a 20% increase in households between 2010 and 2030. The average household size in the town is 2.77, which is larger than the statewide average of 2.63.

A significant portion of the total population is between the ages of 35 and 64 with a total of 10,779. The next largest age cohort is 5-19 with 4,494 residents. The combination of these two cohorts point to the large proportion of family households where these two age cohorts form the household. The next largest age cohort is 65+ with 3,570 residents. As of 2010, about 49% of people living alone in Walpole were over the age of 65 (U.S. 2010 Census).

Walpole's median family income, as estimated by the American Community Survey for 2016, is \$119,338. Above the Massachusetts median family income estimated at \$99,102. 41.4% of families (2,469) earn \$150,000 or more. 38.1% of families (2,495) earn \$75,000 to \$149,999. 10.1% of families (706) earn \$50,000 to \$74,999. 10.4% of families (862) earn less than \$50,000.

Walpole is a relatively homogeneous municipality with an estimated 88.8 percent of its residents identifying as White (non-Hispanic Origin). The town has been diversifying over the past two decades as the percent of residents identifying as White has decreased from 95.4 percent in 2000. The next largest racial group is Asian, which has grown over the same time period from 1.1 percent in the year 2000 to 4.5 percent based on the 2016 estimates. The next largest racial group is African American, which has grown from 1.59 percent in the year 2000 to 2.5 percent based on the 2016 estimates.

Environmental Justice Population Characteristics

In 2002 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts developed an Environmental Justice Policy. Environmental justice is "based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment."

Massachusetts uses three criteria to identify Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, including income, race and ethnicity, and English language proficiency. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) defines EJ populations as neighborhoods (U.S. Census Bureau census block groups) that meet one of more of the following criteria:

- Median annual household income is at or below 65% of the statewide median income;
- 25% or more of the residents are a minority;
- 25% or more of the residents are foreign born; or
- 25% or more of the residents are lacking English language proficiency.

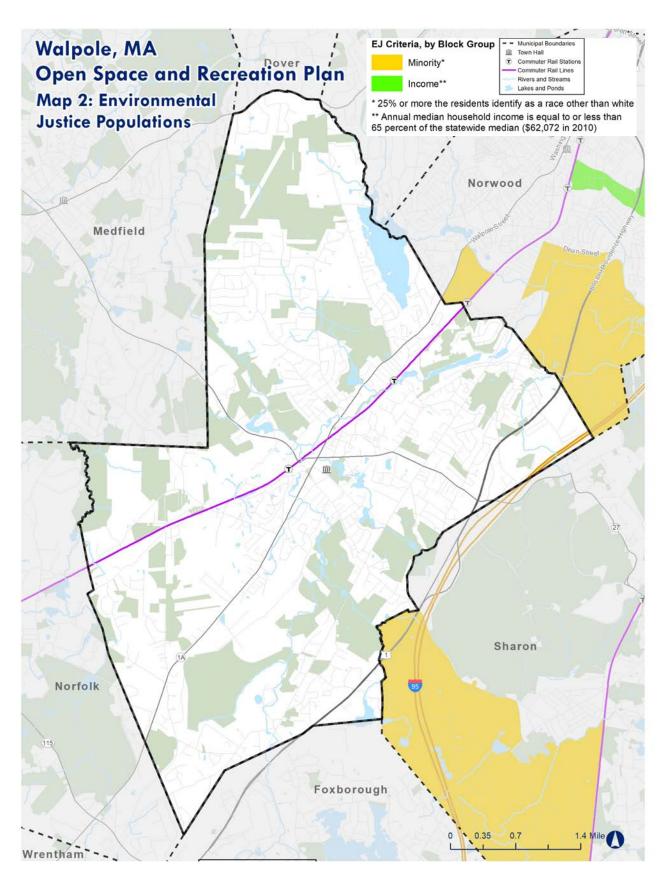
The most recent analysis completed by MassGIS (Bureau of Geographic Information), using data from the 2010 Census and ACS 2010 5-year Estimates, identifies no areas within Walpole that meet the environmental justice criteria, including foreign-born, minority population and income. A map of the Environmental Justice Populations data in Walpole is below. Although no EJ communities exist within the municipal boundaries of Walpole, two EJ communities directly abut the municipal boundaries in the adjacent municipalities of Norwood and Sharon. The nearest clean and healthful environments in the form of publicly accessible parks may be in Walpole for these EJ communities given their proximity to the municipal boundary.

Community Characteristics Growth and Development Patterns

MAPC characterizes Walpole as a maturing New England Town. This type of community is generally characterized by a mixed-use town center surrounded by compact neighborhoods (1/4-1/2 acre lots); low-density outlying areas; large amounts of vacant and potentially developable land; new growth characterized by conventional subdivision development on vacant land; and population and households that are growing rapidly and adding residential land rapidly.

The following summary of historic growth and development patterns in Walpole was sourced from the Town of Walpole's 2008 Communitywide Historic Properties Survey. Walpole's earliest development patterns have been characterized by a joining of natural resources and industry. The discovery of an extensive cedar swamp at the heart of the current municipality led to the establishment of a sawmill near the junction of the Neponset River and School Meadow Brook, This area is within the present Town Forest. Initially, to encourage growth, large lots of land known as "Sawmill Dividends" were granted and resulted in a geographic and socially distinct settlement.

The town's industrial history is closely linked to the development of its villages and village centers. Much of this history is closely connected to the surface water features of the town. These features include the Elbridge Smith dam at Washington Street in South Walpole, the Clark privilege at Summer Street in South Walpole, Old Rucaduc fall near South Walpole, Blackburn privilege near the Town Forest, Union Factory dam at South Street near Common Street, Walpole Center dam at West Street, Stetson privilege near Main Street and Kendall Street, Linden Spring at



Plimpton Street, Bird upper privilege in East Walpole and Bird lower privilege in East Walpole. Bog iron deposits along these brooks supplied forges for about a century and drove settlement around these resources and mills. In addition to these industries, subsistence farming also characterized Walpole's economy at this time. Well-preserved Colonial farmhouses remain in Walpole today.

The 19th century saw the construction of two regional turnpikes through the town and the population of the town doubled. Settlement and surrounding residential development grew along these regional turnpikes, one of which is now Washington Street and concentrated in East Walpole and South Walpole. Industry and farming continued to prosper in the town and the Town Center began to take shape with the former First Parish Church, then Walpole's Unitarian Church, moving the meetinghouse to Common Street. Construction of the Norfolk County Railroad bypassed East Walpole, but included stops in Plimptonville, the town center, and West Walpole, solidifying these locations as centers of activity and commerce. Some of the industries referenced in this period of industrialists are a manufacturer of twine and fish lines, a boot factory, Plimpton Iron Works, paper manufacturing.

In 1881, Walpole built its first Town Hall at 980 Main Street. Town Center saw further improvements with the construction of Union Station and private development around these assets. Other activity centers in town were solidified with a neighborhood of residential and institutional development complementing sizable industrial complexes in East Walpole. The Plimptonville area developed as a result of the adjacent iron works. South Walpole developed with a connection to rail service as well. Many of the patterns of development and major assets of the town were established at the end of this late industrial period with

prominent citizens donating land to the Town for the Walpole Town Forest, fountain on the town common, a high school and grammar school.

The Bird Family of East Walpole had a significant impact on the open space resources of the Town working in 1914 with the town to beautify the community, secure and improve open space, and guide future development working with town planner and landscape architect John Nolen. These efforts resulted in designing improvements for the layout and landscaping of Walpole Center, East Walpole and South Walpole, Walpole Town Forest, Memorial Park at Town Center, and Bird Park on Washington Street. The Town Forest is the third Tree Farm in the Commonwealth to be recognized by the Massachusetts Forestry Association and the first town forest in Massachusetts to be managed for timber revenue (Town of Walpole Communitywide Historic Properties Survey, 2008).

The foundational development pattern and structure of the town has remained in place as established through this historic evolution. More recent development has seen largely the growth of residential that is filling in around the town and village centers. According to the recently completed 2019 Housing Production Plan Update, the American Community Survey estimates that Walpole's population is housed in 9,207 housing units. The majority of these units, 74.9 percent, are single-family detached structures. 5.8 percent of Walpole's housing units are single-family attached structures. 4.6 percent of the housing stock is 2-unit duplexes and 3.2 percent of the housing stock is 3-unit triplexes or 4-unit structures. 11.5 percent of the housing stock is multi-family with 5 or more units. The majority of Walpole's housing stock has been built since 1950, including 51.2 percent that has been built between 1950 and 1990 and an additional 26.2 percent

built from 1990 to 2010. This represents a relatively new housing stock that mirrors the population growth of the town since the 1950's.

Today over 46% of Walpole's land is comprised of residential development, the large majority of which, as noted, is singlefamily homes. Overall, 6,215 acres of land are dedicated to residential uses. Of that total residential area, 4,647 acres are devoted to single-family homes. Tax-exempt public and institutional land, which includes open space in the town, is the second largest land use by area accounting for about 29% of the town's area. This category of land use accounts for 3,872 acres of land in the town. The other main categories of land use include commercial or industrial land representing about 11% of the total land area or 1,548 aces; other land uses (for example, right-of-ways or water) at about 8% of the total land area or 1,143 acres; open space (Chapter 61 land) at about 3% or 361 acres; and mixed use at about 3% or 343 acres. There is relatively little vacant land that remains in the town that is free of constraints.

Recent and Anticipated Development Activity

The vacant land in Walpole, as in much of the Boston metropolitan area, continues to be subjected to development pressure. According to MassBuilds, Walpole currently has 2 projects in the development pipeline. Pennington Crossing, a 55+ adult condominium community, is underway with the first of four buildings completed to build 50 of the planned 186 units. A listing of developments under construction or recently completed in the Town is below:

Multifamily Development

• Barberry Homes – 174 affordable rental units

- Liberty Station at Walpole Center 152 market rate rental units
- Meadowbrook 30 market rate agequalified ownership units
- Moose Hill 157 affordable and market rate rental units
- Pennington Crossing 186 market rate agequalified ownership units
- Residences at Burns Avenue 32 affordable home ownership units
- Renmar 105 market rate age-qualified ownership units
- 95 West Street 192 market rate rental units

Single-family Subdivisions

- Boyden Estates 7 lots
- High Meadows 6 lots
- Olmstead Estates 11 lots
- Roscommon 30 lots (Open Space Residential Development)

As identified in this listing of developments, residential activity in the town has shifted to the production of multifamily dwelling units. This shift is consistent with broader trends across the region. This trend in development is expected to continue given that the Town remains below the Subsidized Housing Inventory threshold of 10 percent affordable housing required under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section B. This allows developers to propose affordable housing development that does not comply with the local zoning bylaw in order to produce housing in the community. This fact combined with the ability to identify and acquire developable land in the Town will lead to an expected continuation of these development patterns.

Infrastructure is another aspect of future development to consider with anticipated activity. The Town of Walpole has a water management plan in place and should consider integrating water conservation requirements and enhancing connections to nearby open space and trails connections to further advance open space and recreation goals with each new investment in the community.

Employment Trends

At the time of the writing of this report, it is difficult to predict where employment trends will go due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to that disruption, the largest 25 employers in Walpole are

listed below. The list is ordered by size range, then alphabetically with the size range. The employer information does not come from the Unemployment Insurance reporting system, but is provided by Infogroup in 2020 through the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance. The list of employers is relatively diversified pointing to a strong employment base in the town. As of March 2020, the labor force in the town was 13,457 with 13,044 employed and 413 unemployed for

Largest 25 Employers in Walpole						
Name	Address	Number of Employees	NAICS Code			
Hollingsworth & Vose Co	Washington St	1,000-4,999	3221			
Siemens Healthineers	Coney St	500-999	6215			
Walmart Supercenter	Providence Hwy	250-499	4522			
Baker Hughes	Providence Hwy #4	250-499	2389			
Big Y World Class Market	Providence Hwy	100-249	4451			
Filling Station	West St	100-249	5416			
Kohl's	Providence Hwy	100-249	4522			
Longview Farm	Lincoln Rd	100-249	6241			
Minuteman Trucks Inc	Providence Hwy	100-249	8111			
New Pond Village	Main St #1	100-249	6233			
Ninety Nine Restaurant & Pub	Providence Hwy	100-249	7225			
Rolls-Royce Naval Marine Inc	Norfolk St	100-249	4412			
S M Lorusso & Sons Inc	West St	100-249	3279			
Stop & Shop	Main St	100-249	4451			
Walpole High School	Common St	100-249	6111			
Applebee's	Providence Hwy	100-249	7225			
Bird Middle School	Washington St	50-99	6111			
Boston Trailer Mfg Co	Production Rd	50-99	5322			
Brightview Landscape Svc	Summer St	50-99	5617			
Canine Joint	Industrial Rd	50-99	6243			
Chili's Grill & Bar	Providence Hwy	50-99	7225			
Dental Associates of Walpole	Main St #1	50-99	6212			
Elm St School Kindergarten	Elm St	50-99	6111			
Fisher School	Gould St	50-99	6111			
Harrington House Nurse & Rehab	Main St	50-99	6231			

was at its low of 2.5% in 2019 and reached its high of 7.3% in 2010 (Labor Market Information LMI from the MA Department of Unemployment Assistance, Economic Research Division). The state's average unemployment rate for 2019 was 2.9%, slightly higher than Walpole's for the same time period. The largest industries in Walpole include Construction (142 establishments), Professional and Technical Services (124), Health Care and Social Assistance (104), Other Services, Except Public Administration (90), and Retail Trade (76) (Labor Market Information LMI from the MA Department of Unemployment Assistance, Economic Research Division). Walpole's median family income, as estimated for 2016 was \$119,338. This estimated income exceeds the statewide median family income of \$99,102.

an unemployment rate of 3.1%. Over the past

10 years, the unemployment rate in Walpole

Recent Open Space Projects

The Town completed an Athletic Fields Master Plan in 2008. The plan identified the need for additional athletic fields and an implementation program to meet the future athletic field needs in the community. Town Meeting approved a request for \$500,000 to design new playing fields on a town-owned site on Route 1A as part of the Town Budget for fiscal year 2019. The same Town Meeting approved \$1 million to dredge Memorial Pond and the pond dredging and improvement project was completed in May 2020.

Infrastructure Characteristics Transportation Systems

The Town's primary transportation infrastructure system is the roadway network with a hierarchy of highways, state routes, and local roads. Interstate 95 and U.S. Route 1 provide regional access and State Routes 27 and 1A provide more local access that bisects the town and intersect at Town Center. The town roadway network is comprised of

approximately 119 miles of town roads.

In addition to the vehicular roadway network, the Town is well-served by suburban transit. MBTA commuter rail service offers access to Boston via the Franklin Line that has two stops in Walpole. A fully available stop is located in Walpole Town Center and a limited service stop is available at the Plimptonville stop. MBTA bus service, Route 34E, is also available from Walpole Town Center to Boston. A freight rail line bisects the town and intersects the commuter rail line near the Town Center stop. Truck lines also operate between Walpole and the Boston and Logan International Airport. In addition to Logan Airport in Boston, Norwood Municipal Airport is easily accessible from Walpole for smaller aircraft.

The Town is considered a "car-dependent" community according to Walk Score, scoring only a 33 out of 100. Walk Score measures the walkability of any address based on the distance to nearby places and the pedestrian friendliness. This score for Walpole means most errands in the town require a car. Sidewalks are present in Walpole Town Center and the Village Centers. In more residential or rural areas of the town, fewer sidewalks exist.

Currently, the Town of Walpole does not have on-street bicycle accommodations or infrastructure. The town does have some off-street bicycle path options that are natural surface paths, parts of which may be appropriate for an off-road bicycle, such as the Bay Circuit Trail. As discussed later in this plan, several expanded rail trails are proposed that would strengthen multimodal connections to surrounding communities. The town has recently undertaken a Complete Street prioritization process that has identified several locations for bicycle improvements.

Water Systems

Walpole is served by town groundwater. As

mentioned in the history section, the town's water system was authorized in 1893 and completed in 1895 with 15 miles of water main, 2 water storage tanks, and a small well field serving 110 customers. Over the years, the system has grown to serve the entire town with over 160 miles of water mains, 6 large water storage tanks, 2 water treatment plants, and 18 large producing wells, serving over 8,000 customers. The groundwater is drawn from two underground water formations called aquifers.

These major aquifer systems include the School Meadow Brook Aquifer located in the southern area of the town and the Mine Brook Aquifer located in the west-northwestern area of the town. The town has ten operational wells in the School Meadow Brook Aquifer and eight operational wells in the Mine Brook Aquifer (Chairman of the Sewer and Water Commission).

As an alternative source of water, Walpole has interconnections with the towns of Foxborough and Norwood. These connections are located on Washington Street, Water Street, and Union Street. They have not been used in recent years, but are maintained on a regular basis to ensure their availability, if needed (2018 Water Quality Annual Report).

The Town of Walpole has improved its water treatment, storage, and distribution infrastructure to create a system that has the capacity to safely provide a water supply of 4.25 million gallons per day (mgd) during the fall, winter, and spring. Providing that supply during the summer would be more difficult for more than a day or two. This is sufficient to accommodate the projected residential population and small-scale non-residential growth. In recent years the town has placed mandatory water demand management policies in to place guidance and limitations on outdoor water use.

Wastewater/Sewer Systems

About 70% of the town's population is served by a municipal sewer system. The system of sewer mains is municipally owned, but the sewage flows into the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) regional system for treatment and disposal. A sewer plan prepared in 1981 by a consultant, recommended expanding the sewer through the central portion of Walpole, but did not recommend extending it to the rural areas of the Town. The sewer plan has been updated in draft form in 2019. The first three phases of the recommended expansion have been completed. The Sewer and Water Division of the Public Works Department is responsible for the administration, operation and maintenance of Walpole's utility infrastructure. About 30% of Walpole's households use septic systems. The proper maintenance of these systems is critical to the town's groundwater supply and to protect Walpole's public health, wetlands, ponds, and waterways. These septic systems provide millions of gallons of

Long Term Development Patterns

connected to that system.

groundwater recharge that would be lost

to the sewer system if more homes were

The primary land use management tool in Walpole is the Zoning Bylaw. The Conservation Commission locally administers the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, the Town of Walpole Wetland Bylaw, and the Town of Walpole Stormwater and Erosion Control Bylaw. The Planning Board provides Subdivision review and approval and is a Special Permit granting authority. The Zoning Board of Appeals is a permit granting authority appointed by the Board of Selectmen to hear and decide applications for zoning variances, applications for Special Permits, and to hear and decide appeals from zoning decisions of administrative officials.

Zoning Characteristics

The Town of Walpole Zoning By-law was most recently amended in May 2019. The Town of Walpole is divided into three types of zoning districts including Type 1 – Special Purpose Districts, Type 2 – Residential Districts, and Type 3 – Non-Residence Districts. The three types of zoning districts include eleven separate zoning districts listed in order of restrictiveness, as follows:

• Type 1 - Special Purpose Districts

o WP - Water Protection

o FP - Flood Plain District

o PSRC – Park, School, Recreation and Conservation District

• Type 2 - Residential Districts

o R – Rural Resident Districts. The primary purpose of this district is to provide an area for agriculture, open space and low density, single-family residential land use.

o RA – Resident A District. The primary purpose of this district is to provide an area for medium low density, single-family residential land use. o RB – Resident B District. The primary purpose of this district is to provide an area for medium density, single-family residential land use.

o GR – General Residence District. The purpose of this district is to provide an area for low density, single and multifamily residential land use, public, semi-public, institutional and recreational uses and professional offices compatible with low density, residential land uses, and to provide a transition area between single family residential and commercial or industrial land uses.

• Type 3 - Non-Residence Districts

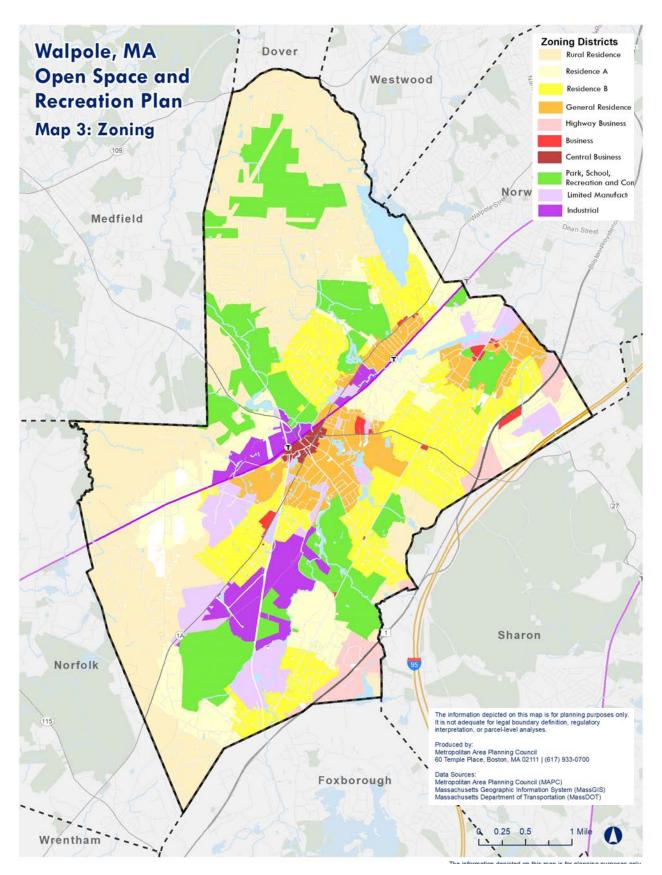
o B – Business District. The purpose of this district is to accommodate a wide range of retail, office and service uses.

o CBD – Central Business District. The purpose of this district is to provide for a center of business activity accessible by pedestrian travel, to provide a center for municipal and cultural activities and to act as a landmark and symbol of the Town.

o LM – Limiting Manufacturing District. The purpose of this district is to provide an area for low-density wholesale and unobtrusive manufacturing uses.

o IND – Industrial District. The purpose of this district is to provide an area for general manufacturing and wholesale uses.





Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Walpole is located almost entirely within the Neponset River watershed. This watershed defines many of the environmental characteristics of the municipality. The Neponset River is 30 miles long and starts near Walpole in the Town of Foxborough. The River ends in Dorchester and Quincy. The watershed includes roughly 130 square miles of land southwest of Boston. All of this land drains into the Neponset River and ultimately into the Boston Harbor. Many of the communities in the watershed get their drinking water from within its boundaries. Walpole's natural and environmental characteristics are shared with other communities in the watershed and include varying soils, forestland and wetlands, and a system of rivers, streams and water bodies. These characteristics are described in more detail in this section.

Topography, Geology, and Soils

Walpole lies within the New England Upland section of the New England province. The New England province is a physiographic province of the larger Appalachian division of eastern North America. The topography of the New England Upland is that of a maturely dissected plateau with narrow valleys that have been greatly modified by glaciation (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geomorphic Provinces and Sections). The Topography of this section is characterized by the Neponset River and by the wetland areas adjacent to the river; further from the river the topography forms gently rolling hills with low relief and subtle breaks between major landforms (U.S. Department of Agriculture). As it passes through Walpole, the Neponset River falls 170 feet. The river enters South Walpole at an elevation of 234 feet. It falls to 180 feet at the Cedar Swamp, 140 feet at West Street, and 100 feet at the Bird site in East Walpole. As it crosses into the Town

of Norwood it is at an elevation of 64 feet. The general bedrock geology of Walpole, including the broader geographies of Norfolk and Suffolk Counties, is the Wamsutta Formation in the central portion of the municipality. The Wamsutta Formation consists of conglomerate, lithic greywacke, sandstone, and shale. In the northern and southern portions of the municipality the bedrock geology is Dedham Granite. Several areas of the town consist of Roxbury Conglomerate or "Roxbury pudding stone", a conglomerate of sandstone, siltstone, argillite, and melaphyre. Most of the town's soils consist of sand and gravel while the northern part of town is primary glacial till. (United States Geological Survey)

Unique geological features in Walpole include the Cedar Swamp and the winding and dropping Neponset River. The Neponset falls 170 feet over its course through Walpole and it collects and falls over obstacles creating several of the ponds in the Town. The Town's landscape also features earth terraces, swales, eskers, and gravel pits that are all evidence of glacial deposition.

Soils

Walpole's soil is primarily classified as the Hinckley-Merrimac-Urban type. These soils are very deep and range from nearly level to steep. They are excessively drained and somewhat excessively drained soils formed in sandy and loamy glacial outwash overlying stratified sand and gravel, and areas of urban land (National Cooperative Soil Survey, USA 2017). These soils are usually found in major stream valleys and on coastal plains. They are generally well suited for buildings as well as roads and streets. However, because they are well drained they can pose a water pollution hazard when used for septic systems since they

readily absorb, but do not adequately filter, the effluent.

North Walpole consists primarily of Woodbridge-Paxton and Canton/Charlton soil types (C series Hydrologic group). These are very deep and range from nearly level to steep. They are moderately well drained and well drained soils formed in friable, loamy glacial till overlying a firm substratum. These soils are well suited for cultivating crops, as pasture, and as woodlands because of smooth slopes and high productivity. They are poorly suited for septic systems because the firm substratum does not readily absorb the effluent.

Landscape Character

Most areas are forested, brush land, or used as urban land. Northern red, black, white, scarlet and scrub oak, eastern white and pitch pine, eastern hemlock, gray birch, and red maple are common trees. Unimproved pasture and idle land support hardhack, little bluestem, bracken fern, sweet fern, and low bush blueberry (National Cooperative Soil Survey, USA 2017).

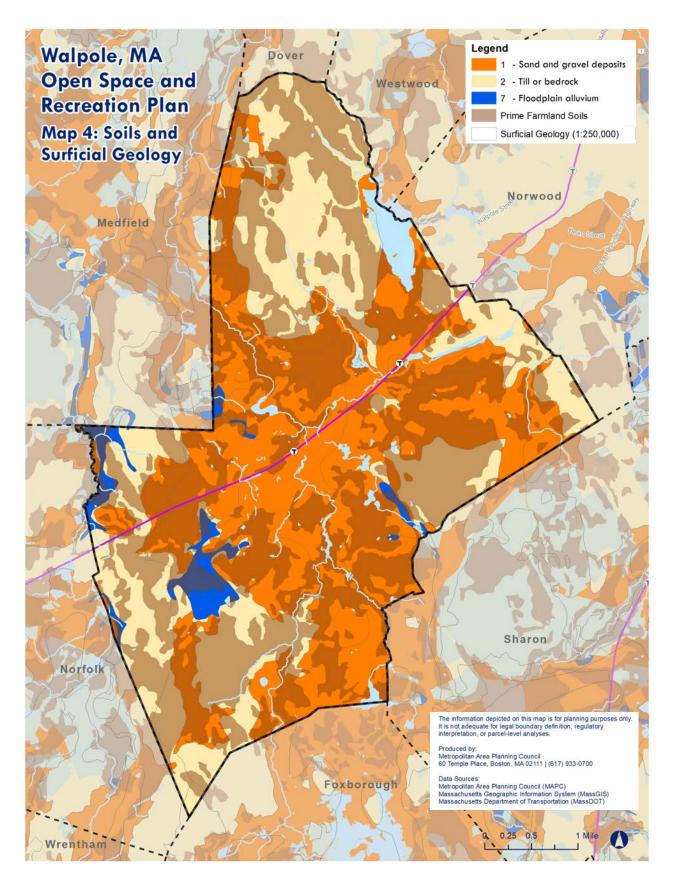
Scenic Resources and Unique Environments In 2008, The Town of Walpole received a Survey and Planning Grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to conduct an extensive survey of the historic and cultural resources in the town. The following scenic resources and unique environments were highlighted in that survey. As noted in the History of the Community section, the historically significant planner and landscape architect, John Nolan, had a major impact on the scenic resources and unique environments of Walpole. He was retained by a fivemember planning committee lead by Charles Bird to draft a town plan that resulted in many of the current scenic resources and unique environments. The committee adopted the plan in 1914 to beautify the community resulting

in the Walpole Town Forest (1914-1916), Memorial Park (1923-1924) and Francis William Bird Park (1924). These efforts remain scenic town resources today.

The Norfolk County Agricultural School (1916) is a scenic resource. The 97-acre school property in North Walpole includes a campus and pond located at Main and Fisher Streets, and pasture and farmland. The Neponset River, a defining feature of the town, and its tributaries and ponds are also scenic resources. These resources include Bird Pond in East Walpole, Rucaduc Pond, and Clarks Pond on Stone Street. Each of these scenic resources played an important role in the development of Walpole. The remnants of the old mills and dams are a part of the cultural landscape of Walpole and are unique environments.

Walpole has designated a number of Scenic Roads under the Massachusetts Scenic Road Act. These designated roads include North Street, High Street, Lincoln Road, Pine Street, Peach Street, Baker Street, and Lewis Avenue. It should be noted that scenic road designation does not guarantee protection of the scenic views, but does require a public hearing prior to any changes in the stone walls and large trees located within the road right-of-way.

Cultural, Archaeological, and Historic Areas
Based upon research of Dr. Curtiss Hoffman,
Professor of Archaeology at Bridgewater
State College referenced in the 2011 Open
Space and Recreation Plan, evidence of
Native American activity within the present
boundaries of the Town of Walpole has been
found throughout the town with a concentration
of activity at the elbow of the Neponset River
near Plimptonville. In this location, Native
Americans collected fish at the falls, made
stone tools, and ground corn in stone mortars.
There is also evidence that the area may have
been a Native American burial ground.



According to the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS), there are a total of 413 historic and cultural resources that have been inventoried in the Town of Walpole. These include areas, buildings, homes, churches, bridges, cemeteries and other historic structures or sites. Many of the significant sites and monuments are contributed by have been contributed by the Bird family, prominent in the history of Walpole, including Bird House, Bird Park, the Bird Estate, Bird Pond, Bird Memorial Fountain, Bird Memorial Clock and Tower, and Bird School.

Water Resources

The water resources of Walpole are critically important to the community. They are the source of drinking water, a source of recreation and scenic beauty, and provide natural habitats. The Neponset River watershed, the many surface ponds and tributaries, and wetlands define the visible water resources of the town with the aquifer the most critical feature of the system underground.

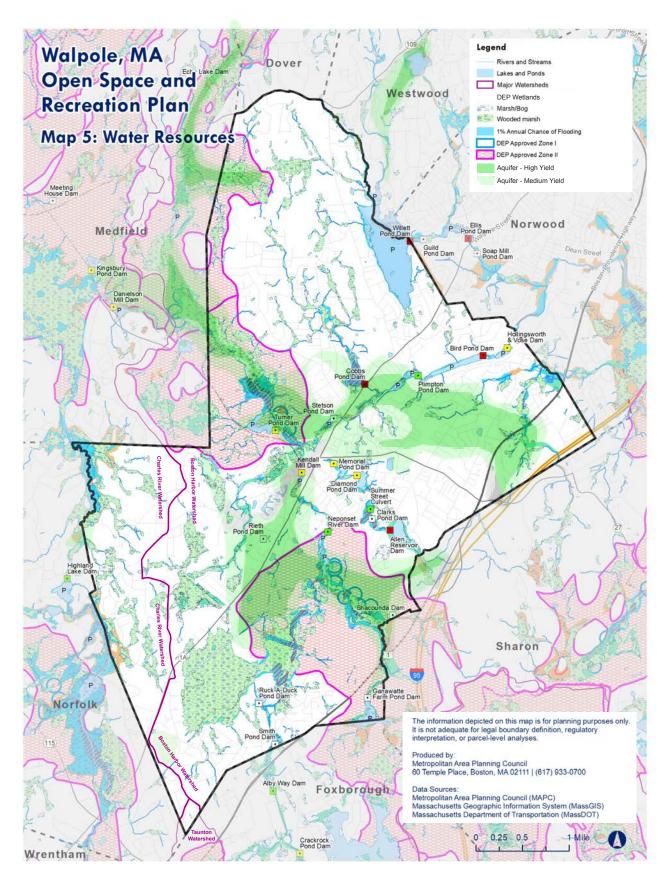
Watersheds

The majority of the Town of Walpole is located within the Neponset River watershed, only a small corner of the western edge is located in the Charles River watershed. The Neponset River watershed includes the Neponset River, seven tributary brooks and streams, sixteen small to large named ponds, Cedar Swamp, and bordering vegetated wetlands. The Stop River located along the western boundary of the town is located in the Charles River watershed.

Surface Water

The Neponset River flows from south to north from the Town of Foxborough through the center of Walpole and into the Town of Norwood. The river has influenced development of the Town as outlined in the History of Community section. Several dams, that are remnants of the past industrious relationship with the river, remain along the river. The Neponset River is fed by seven tributaries in Walpole that include the Spring/Diamond Brook, School Meadow Brook, Bubbling Brook, Mine Brook, Cedar Swamp Brook, Cobbs Brook, and Traphole Brook. The brooks feed many of the Town's sixteen public and private named ponds. The majority of the ponds are man-made and created by dams. The ponds of Walpole include (based on the 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan):

- Allen Dam Pond (public, 6 acres) a town owned and managed pond built for flood control located off of Washington Street.
 A town-owned earthen dam creates the impoundment of the Spring Diamond Brook.
 The pond is bordered by wetland and forested land. Public access and limited parking is available. Activities include fishing, ice-skating and non-motorized boating.
- Bird Pond (private, 15 acres) a privately owned dammed pond located along the Neponset River in East Walpole. Flows under Washington Street into the Hollingsworth and Vose Pond.
- Clark's Pond (public, 11 acres) a town owned and managed man-made pond located off Stone Street and part of the Spring/Diamond Brook. Clark's pond has two basins connected by two culverts. The small basin is three acres and the main basin is 8 acres. The Town maintains the dam at Stone Street. It flows into Diamond Pond. Clark's Pond is managed by the Town and periodically treated to control aquatic vegetation. The pond is bordered by town land and private land. Public access and parking is available. Activities include fishing, ice-skating and non-motorized boating.
- Cobb's Pond (public, 24 acres) a town owned and managed pond located off of Main Street and Fisher Street. The pond



is managed by the town and periodically treated to control aquatic vegetation. A Pond Management Plan was drafted in 2001 for the pond. Limited public access is provided from Main Street and Cobb Terrace.

- Diamond Pond (private, 9 acres) a privately owned pond with two basins, the main basin and small basin. It is part of the Spring Brook system with Clarks Pond flowing to Diamond Pond and Diamond Pond flowing to Memorial Pond.
- Ganawatte Pond (private, 29 acres) a privately owned pond located off of Pine Street and bordering the Town of Foxborough. School Brook Meadow flows in a northerly direction from the pond into Walpole.
- Hollingsworth and Vose Pond (private,
 6 acres) a privately owned dammed pond
 located on the Neponset River and managed
 by the Hollingsworth and Vose Company.
- Memorial Pond (public, 4-5 acres) a town owned and managed pond located off of School Street. A Pond Management Plan was drafted in 1998 to enhance water quality and control aquatic vegetation. The pond is treated periodically for aquatic vegetation. Town Meeting approved the dredging of Memorial Pond in 2019. Public access and parking is available on School Street. Activities include fishing, ice-skating and non-motorized boating.
- Post Office Pond (Clark Pond) (private, 8 acres) a privately owned pond that drains to the Neponset River from the Town of Foxborough.
- Plimpton Street Pond (private, 5 acres) a privately owned dammed pond that is located on the Neponset River flowing into Bird Pond in East Walpole.
- Rainbow Pond (private, 3 acres) a privately owned pond located on the property of the Royal Crest Country Club.
- Rucaduc Pond (private, acres) a privately owned manmade pond associated with the Neponset River spillway system on the old Bird

Machine site in South Walpole.

- Stetson Pond (private, 4 acres) a privately owned dammed stretch of the Neponset River located between Main Street and Robbins Road.
- Turner's Pond (public, 13.8 acres) a town owned and managed pond located off of Elm Street. It flows to Stetson Pond. A Pond Management Plan was drafted to allow the town to treat for aquatic vegetation when needed. Residential dwellings border the pond. Public parking and access is available on Elm Street. Activities include fishing, iceskating and non-motorized boating.
- Walpole Country Club Allen Pond (private, 16 acres) a privately owned pond located on the grounds of the Walpole Country Club. Fed by Spring Brook and drains to the larger Allen Pond dam.
- Willett Pond/Pettes (private, 208 acres) a privately owned pond that is predominantly owned and managed by the Neponset River Land Holdings Association. Located along the boundary with the Town of Norwood and the Town of Westwood. It is created by an earthen dam containing a concrete core wall and fed by Bubbling Brook.

The town-owned dams are listed below. The Town Engineer works with Dam Safety to review the dams every 2 or 5 years depending on the dam. The town-owned dams include the Allen Dam, Cobb's Pond Dam, Memorial Pond Dam, Neponset River Dam, and Turner Pond Dam. Past interest has occurred in filing for a grant to remove abutments along the Neponset River in the Town Forest. However, it was determined not to move forward due to opposition to the potential removal. One non-town-owned land is the Bird Dam with its owner unknown.

Wetlands

A variety of wetland types are found in Walpole and range from deciduous and coniferous forested wetlands, scrub-shrub wetlands, meadow or fen wetlands, emergent marsh, and aquatic deep or shallow marsh wetlands associated with Walpole's rivers, streams and ponds. The deciduous and coniferous-forested wetlands are dominated by woody vegetation that is 20 feet in height or more. The scrub-shrub wetland is dominated by woody vegetation that is under 20-feet in height. The meadow or fen wetland is dominated by herbaceous vegetation. The town has several notable wetland areas that have played a major role in the historic development of the town, Cedar Swamp, Mine Brook, and wetlands associated with the Neponset River and its tributaries.

- Cedar Swamp Cedar Swamp is the largest wetland in town and located in South Walpole. Cedar Swamp is a forested wetland characterized by Atlantic White Cedar trees and Red Maple swamp. The Natural Heritage Program lists Cedar Swamp as a Priority Habitat. This area is within the Town's primary recharge area for drinking water and is an important resource to protect. At the northerly end of the swamp the land use is dominated by industrial uses located along Main Street and within the industrial park. The southerly edge of the swamp is mostly residential uses. A tributary from the swamp flows to the Neponset River in the area of the old Bird Machine factory.
- Mine Brook Another significant wetland system in the town borders Mine Brook. Mine Brook is a tributary to the Neponset River. The area below Mine Brook is one of two aquifers that supply the town's public drinking water. This area extends from the Town of Medfield border to Robbins Road. This wetland system consists of floodplain, Red Maple swamp, open water, and emergent swamp areas. It is bordered predominantly by residential subdivisions.
- Other Riparian Wetland Systems –

Considerable vegetative wetland systems exist along the Neponset River, School Meadow Brook, Spring Brook, and Traphole Brook. The area below School Meadow Brook is the second of two aquifers that supply the town's public drinking water.

Groundwater Aquifer Recharge Areas

The Town of Walpole's drinking water supply is provided by two ground water aquifers.

The two aquifers are the School Meadow Brook Aquifer and the Mine Brook Aquifer.

The Town's Zoning Bylaw's Water Resource Protection Overlay Districts regulate uses within these areas. The Water Resource Protection Overlay Districts consist of Zone 1- 400-feet well radius, Area 1 — Area of Pumping Influence, Area 2 — Potential Water Supply, Area 3 — Primary Recharge Area and Area 4 — Secondary Recharge Area.

Flood Hazard Areas

The Flood Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) are used to determine the 1% annual chance floodplain in Walpole and other municipalities throughout the nation. The main flood plan areas are along the Neponset River and its tributaries. In addition to the federal floodplain mapping through FEMA, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act provides regulations around the protection and management of floodplain areas. The Walpole Conservation Commission locally enforces these regulations. The Walpole Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Town's Zoning Bylaw also protect floodplain areas with local regulations in Walpole.

Vegetation

There are five major plant communities that are found within the Town of Walpole. These plant communities include Upland Oak-Hickory, Upland Northern Hardwood, Mixed Hardwood-Softwood, Coniferous, and Bottom Land or Wetland Hardwood. Below is a more

detailed description of these major plant communities:

- Upland Oak-Hickory this plant community includes White, Red, and Scarlet Oak and Hickory. Often scattered within the community is Pitch Pine while the understory vegetation includes Flowering Dogwood, Sassafras, and Greenbrier.
- Upland Northern Hardwood this plant community includes Sugar Maple, Northern Red Oak, Black Cherry, American Beech, White Ash, White Birch, Quaking Aspen, Basswood, and Red Maple. The understory vegetation consists of Arrowwood, Wild Raisin, Sarsaparilla, Sprouts of American Chestnut, Spicebush, Witch Hazel, and Greenbrier.
- Mixed Hardwood-Softwood this plant community consists of mixed stands of deciduous and coniferous trees. White Pine, American Beech, Red Maple, Red Oak, Pitch Pine, Sugar Maple, Eastern Hemlock, White Ash, Grey Birch, American Elm, and Basswood compose this mixture. The understory plants common in this community are Arrowwood, Honeysuckle, Wild Raisin, Spicebush, Greenbrier, Wild Grape, Shining Clubmoss, Partridge Berry, Sassafras, Sarsaparilla, Wintergreen, and Witch Hazel.
- Coniferous this plant community consists of White Pine, Eastern Hemlock, Scotch Pine, Pitch Pine, Norway Spruce, Red Pine, and White Spruce. This community has very few understory plants that occasionally consist of Greenbrier and Honeysuckle.
- Bottom Land or Wetland Hardwood this plant community consists of American Elm, Red Maple, Swamp White Oak, Green Ash, and an occasional Black Willow. Scattered understory plants consist of Highbush Blueberry, Greenbrier, Witch Hazel, Silky Dogwood, Northern Arrowwood, Spicebush, Honeysuckle, and Speckled Alder. Other vegetated areas consist of wet meadows, shallow marsh and deep marsh communities dominated by

Pickerelweed, Northern Arrowhead, Cattails, Joe-Pye-Weed, Sweet Flag, Woolgrass, Sedges, and Varied Bulrush.

The Priority Habitat area of the Cedar Swamp has its own plant community description as Atlantic White Cedar Swamp. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program lists it as a Priority Habitat and Estimated Habitats of Endangered Species. This program describes the plant community as a forested wetland with a dense primarily evergreen canopy, a deciduous layer, and a sparse herb layer dominated by mosses. The inland Atlantic White Cedar Swamp located in Walpole is mixed with Hemlock, Red Maple, and Yellow Birch, a shrub layer of Sweet Pepper Bush, and Winterberry, and an understory of Cinnamon Fern, Starflower, and Common Mayflower.

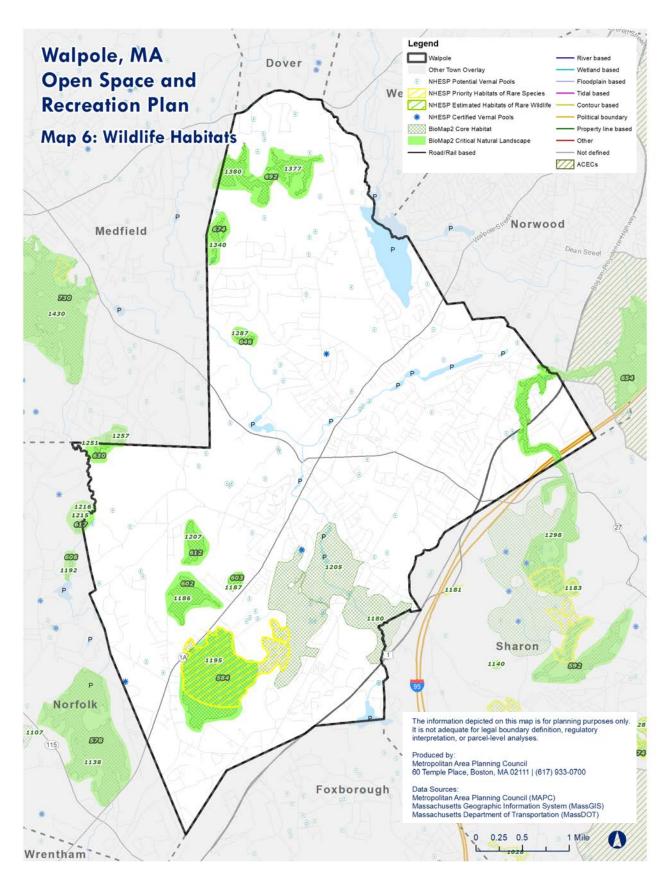
Walpole's public shade trees lining the streets throughout the town and planted on town owned land, including conservation land, are the responsibility of the Parks Department.

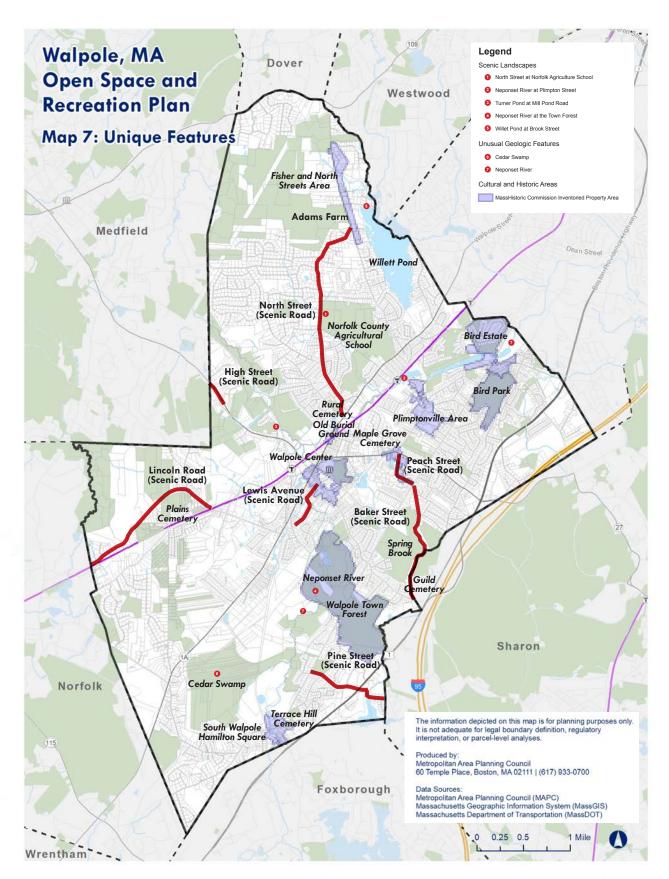
Shade trees are protected by the Towns
Scenic Roads bylaw (Chapter 452). All trees considered for removal must be posted for a public hearing before the Tree Warden.

Shade trees in Walpole include primarily
Cedar, Oak, and Maple, particularly Norway
Maple. Threats to shade trees include seasonal drought, emerald ash borer, gypsy moths,
Asian long horned beetle, winter snow removal and salt, utility work and maintenance and traffic collisions.

Fisheries and Wildlife

The Town of Walpole has several important wildlife habitats and corridors within its borders. Some of these areas and corridors are contained within the town, while others are part of broader regional systems that cross many municipal boundaries. The wildlife habitats include Willett Pond, the Norfolk Agriculture School land, Adams Farm, and





Cedar Swamp. The corridors include the Neponset River that runs from the Town of Foxborough, through Walpole, to the Town of Norwood and beyond, the several railroad and electrical right-of-ways that cross the town, Mine Brook that connects to the Charles River watershed, and Core Habitat Area of Traphole Brook as it passes from the Town of Norwood into the Town of Walpole.

The Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), and the Nature Conservancy's Massachusetts Program developed BioMap 2. BioMap 2 combines documentation of rare species and natural community data with spatial data identifying wildlife species and habitats. BioMap 2 data in Walpole identifies two priority natural communities of Alluvial Red Maple Swamp and Inland Atlantic White Cedar Swamp.

According to the BioMap2 description, the

Alluvial Red Maple Swamps are a type of red maple swamp that occurs in low areas along rivers and streams. Regular flooding enriches the soil with nutrients, resulting in an unusual set of associated trees and plants.

According to the BioMap2 description, the Inland Atlantic White Cedar Swamps are forested wetlands dominated by Atlantic white cedar, with hemlock, spruce, red maple, and yellow birch. As in all Atlantic White Cedar swamps, water-saturated peat overlies the mineral sediments. The large habitat area has been negatively affected by changes in its hydrology due to the railroad grade, resulting in large stands of dead trees.

The wildlife supported by these habitats and corridors include blue heron, green heron, snapping turtles, spotted turtle, common sun turtle, northern black racer snake, eastern ribbon snake, geese, various ducks, and migrating birds. An occasional bald eagle can be found at the ponds of the Town. The



Town of Walpole

Town also has a healthy deer population concentrated in North Walpole at Adams Farms and the Norfolk Agricultural School area. Other small animals typical of New England are found throughout the town including chipmunks, rabbits, opossum, and others.

Fishing occurs in Walpole at Memorial Pond, Turner Pond, and Clarks Pond, Traphole Brook, and along the Neponset River at the White Bridge in the Town Forest on South Street.

Based on "Fishing in Walpole. A common guide to fish you will find in Walpole, 2011" by the Walpole Ponds Management Committee, fish include trout, bluegill, yellow perch, sun fish, largemouth bass, catfish, eel, pickerel, hornpout, and white perch. No ponds in the town are stocked with fish.

Examples of the pipeline and transmission corridors that represent natural habitat connections between several significant habitat areas in the town are listed here. All such corridors should be considered in planning

and evaluating development projects and open space acquisitions to enhance continuous corridors and natural connections between habitat areas. Pipeline and transmission line corridors connect School Meadow Brook with the Neponset River and beyond to an old railroad bed. This railroad bed then passes through Cedar Swamp and then to the Town of Wrentham creating links to other core habitat areas and both Crocker Pond and Lake Pearl. Another pipeline corridor links both Cedar Swamp and the Cedar Hill area with sites in the Town of Medfield north of Noon Hill and the Charles River Watershed. Willett Pond is linked to core habitat areas in the Town of Dover and the Town of Westwood south of Noannet Pond.

Rare and Endangered Species

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife lists one mapped Priority Habitat and Estimated Habitat area in Walpole. This Priority Habitat area is Cedar Swamp. The MassWildlife's Natural Heritage

Table — Rare and threatened species observed in Walpole						
Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxonomic Group	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation		
Adder's Tongue Fern	Ophioglossum pusillum	Vascular Plant	Threatened	Historic (1908)		
Blanding's Turtle	Emydoidea blandingii	Reptile	Threatened	2010		
Blue-spotted Salamander (complex)	Ambystoma laterale pop. 1	Amphibian	Special Concern	Historic (1992)		
Great Laurel	Rhododendron maximum	Vascular Plant	Threatened	Historic (1908)		
Green Adder's- mouth	Malaxis unifolia	Vascular Plant	Threatened	Historic (1899)		
Hessel's Hairstreak	Callophrys hesseli	Butterfly/Moth	Special Concern	2016		

and Endangered Species Program maintains a list of all documented Massachusetts
Endangered Species Act (MESA)-listed species observations in Massachusetts. This list is searchable by Town. The table listing species observed in Walpole is listed on the previous page.

Environmental Challenges

The environmental challenges that the Town of Walpole has been responding to include protection of groundwater sources, degradation of surface water and wetland environments, pond sedimentation, invasive plant management, and management of brownfield sites.

Protection of Groundwater Sources

Wastewater systems near groundwater sources are always a concern for protecting and managing drinking water quality. Adjacent malfunctioning septic systems, cracked sewer pipes, or incorrectly installed systems can leak untreated wastewater and sewage into streams, wither through over-the-ground flow or through the ground and its groundwater systems. This waste acts like fertilizer potentially leading to excessive growth of algae and plants. Raw sewage also adds to viruses and bacteria in the water. Toxins in the wastewater can also affect the natural inhabitants of the stream. Excessive water use and groundwater withdrawal is another risk that must be managed to protect groundwater sources. Excessive use patterns can lower a stream's water level significantly, even to the point of drying the streambed, leading to poor water quality and wildlife habitats, particularly for aquatic species.

Degradation of Surface Water and Wetland Environments

Walpole's dams have been listed previously in this section. A dam on a waterway obstructs the movement and migration of aquatic wildlife, such as fish. It slows the flow of the water, causing the water to drop the sand, dirt, nutrients, and contaminants that it is carrying. This dropping of materials is sedimentation and it occurs behind the dam. This can cause an imbalance in nutrient load — too many above the dam and too few below the dam. The slow moving water also has more time to warm, decreasing the oxygen that is carried in the water, and reducing the ability to support aquatic life.

Sedimentation can also cause waterway turbidity that makes it more difficult to see through the water and for aquatic organisms to catch prey. Stormwater, roadway runoff. and erosion can all contribute to sedimentation. The application of road salts during the winter also degrades the surface water and wetland quality for areas adjacent to the roadway. In 2019, the Town of Walpole received a grant from the Baker-Polito Administration to conduct field data collection and analysis for a culvert replacement project on Traphole Brook, a designated cold water fishery resource. Upgrading the culvert improves fish and wildlife passage and water quality in the area.

Another contributing factor to the degradation of these environments is the removal of native vegetation from the edges of the waterways. This may also contribute to the warming of water, reduces the filtering of pollutants, and decreases the food supply for aquatic organisms.

Pond Sedimentation

Although pond management plans have been created over the years, and aquatic vegetation has been actively managed, several of the Town's ponds are shallow due to many years of sedimentation. The sedimentation of ponds created shallower ponds with little deep water. The shallow

ponds warm faster with less deep cold-water areas and contribute to the growth of more nuisance vegetation. Resolving this problem is difficult because it is both costly and time consuming to permit these activities. The town has made progress in addressing the on-going sedimentation of the ponds by installing a variety of stormwater structures and recently completed the dredging of Memorial Pond to directly address this issue.

Erosion

A contributor to the pond, stream, river, and water body sedimentation is erosion, which is a significant environmental hazard to the water bodies in Walpole. Steep slopes around ponds and river banks, and nearby impervious surfaces reduce the amount of water recharging into the ground. The resulting runoff can increase erosion and carry excess sediment into the water bodies that can impair the water quality. Construction sites and winter roadway treatment can also increase the rates of erosion and sedimentation.

Walpole has several regulations in place to minimize the impacts of erosion in the town. Under the Federal Clean Water Act, Phase II requirements, the Town of Walpole was issued a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) PII MS4 General Permit. As a part of the permit the Town is required to implement and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff. As part of this program, the town has adopted a Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Bylaw to meet the Phase II requirements. The bylaw establishes the Walpole Conservation Commission as the permitting authority and requires that all projects over 40,000 square feet obtain a stormwater management and erosion control permit.

Chronic Flooding

Given the number of ponds and wetlands

in the town, there are also areas of chronic flooding. Most of these areas are located in the vicinity of these water features. Chronic flooding occurs in the areas south of Willett Pond, to the south of Bird Park, and around the Old Post School on Old Post Road. In addition, chronic flooding occurs on South Street in South Walpole, around Oak Street, Washington Street and Common Street near Walpole Center, Autumn Lane, Brown Drive/Lewis Ave, MacDonald Circle, and in the areas of East Street and North Street. In 2020, the Town's capital budget included \$42,000 for drainage studies to analyze several of these chronic flooding areas.

Invasive Plant Management

Invasive plants are on-going maintenance issues to rid the nuisance vegetation along the Town's rivers, ponds, and streams. Invasive plant species such as Purple Loosestrife, Glossy Buckthorn, Bitter-sweet Vine, Grape Vine, and Bamboo are prominent along Walpole's rivers and ponds. The ponds have a variety of nuisance aquatic vegetation that ranges from Water Chestnuts, Fanwort, Watershield, Coontail, Watermilfoil, and White and Yellow Water Lilies. Nuisance aquatic vegetation can cause issues for fishing and ice-skating.

Management of Brownfield Sites

Walpole has been actively pursuing redevelopment and cleanup activities for existing Brownfield sites, abandoned, or underused industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. A search for waste site and reportable releases on the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs website shows 186 sites in Walpole dating back to 1987. Ten of these sites remain classified as "open sites." All others are classified as "closed sites" or "closed sites

with use limitation."

These ten open sites include the Blackburn and Union Privileges site on South Street, 1065 Main Street, 1340 Main Street, 1425 Main Street, 1900 Main Street, 2000 Main Street, 935 East Street, 55 West Street, 642 Boston Providence Highway, and a Rhoades Avenue site near Bird Park.

Efforts have been underway since 1999 when the Town received an EPA Brownfield Assessment Demonstration Grant Pilot. More recently, in 2015 the Town completed a brownfield covenant with the Massachusetts Attorney General to allow for the redevelopment of a 26-acre parcel of property located on the Blackburn Union Superfund site. The site, which had been heavily contaminated with asbestos, lead, arsenic, and nickel has been redeveloped into a new Police Station, Senior Center, and parking facility. The project also redeveloped an abandoned rail bed on the property into a walking trail that links the site to the High School and Town Forest, enhancing the

open space available for public use. The Trails Committee and other leaders in Town have expressed a goal to extend this trail connection underneath Common Street in the future.

Landfills

In Walpole, there are two landfills, neither is active. One of the landfills was municipal. It is now a capped landfill and is located off of Lincoln Road near the intersection with West Street. One of the landfills was private on private land. It is the Bird landfill off of Renmar Avenue. The Bird landfill is also capped and is the now the location of a solar array.

Development Impact

New development has the potential to contribute to some of the environmental challenges that have been outlined including protection of groundwater sources, degradation of surface water and wetland environments, pond sedimentation, and loss of important natural habitats and landscapes.



According to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program's (NHESP) BioMap 2, Walpole's Core Habitat and Supporting Natural Landscapes, which serve as buffers to the Core Habitat, are mostly located in the southern portion of the town. These areas include the Town Forest and Cedar Swamp.

Development impacts near these natural resources, or near flood plains, or Zone I and II groundwater protection areas, or steeply sloped property, or property near a wetland, are all locations that have the potential for additional development and additional impacts. However, in recent years, development in Walpole has seen a focus on multifamily redevelopment in more densely developed areas with transit access, such as Downtown and East Walpole. This densification of previously developed areas, may help to reduce the impact on natural resources by

concentrating development in locations that are already disturbed and integrating improved stormwater management systems.

Environmental Equity

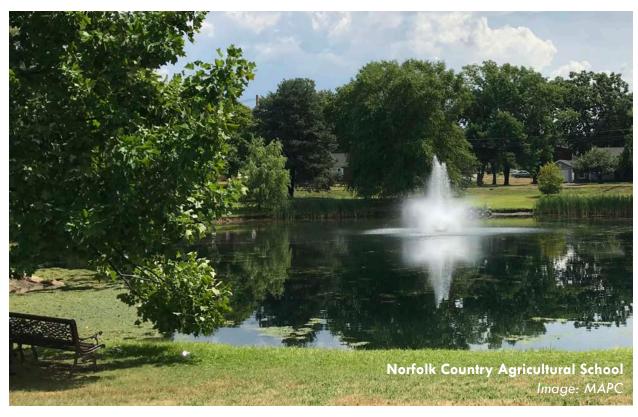
Environmental equity refers to the distribution of open space and recreation resources in the town. The Trust for Public Land has created a database and tool that estimates the distribution and access to parks within a municipality. It is called the ParkServe database. For the database the Trust for Public Land has collected US Census and GIS data to determine municipal boundaries and park resources within the municipality. For each park, a 10-minute walk area was created to generate statistics for each park to determine the populations that had relatively convenient access to the park resources.

The following figures should be viewed as estimates only as the Census boundary



utilized in the analysis does not match the town boundary and is only a small portion of the municipality, but the analysis does offer a helpful point of reference. The ParkServe database for Walpole estimates that 62% of Walpole residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. This compares to the national average of 55% that is estimated by the Trust for Public Land. According to the demographic statistics through the ParkServe database, this access is relatively consistent across age and income cohorts. Although the town does not include Environmental Justice Populations based on Census data, it is important to consider the equity of access by race in the town. The demographic data estimated by ParkServe does show variation by race and ethnicity with a lower percentage of residents within a 10-minute walk of a park for Native American (50%), Asian (55%), Hispanic (61%) and individuals that identify as two or more races (57%).

The distribution of the parks and natural resources is relatively even across the town. However, it is important to look at where potential geographic gaps are in the open space network. Two areas are more noticeably absent of open space resources than any others on the map. The first is the area just south of Walpole Center in the vicinity of Norfolk Street, West Street, and Main Street. An additional open space strategically located in this area may increase the percentage of residents with more convenient access to an open space resource. The second is the area of South Walpole. While this area is home to a large natural feature, the Cedar Swamp, it does not have as many accessible open space amenities. The analysis from the Trust for Public Land also estimates where parks are needed most and highlights the area to the south of downtown.





Section 5: Inventory of Lands

Introduction to the Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Lands

This section contains an inventory of all conservation, open space, and recreation lands, both publicly and privately owned. Information on ownership, management responsibility, level of protection, and primary use of the property are included in this inventory. The inventoried properties are shown in the inventory table are depicted on the Open Space and Recreation Inventory Map. The open space and recreation resources of a community are critically important to its quality of life, community character, and environmental health. The protection and stewardship of these assets via past, future, and current Open Space and Recreation Plans is a crucial element in retaining the importance of these resources as a community is shaped by other changes.

Open space has many different definitions and can mean different things to different people. The Open Space and Recreation Planners Workbook defines open space as "conservation land, forested land, recreation land, agricultural land, corridor parks and amenities such as small parks, green buffers along roadways or any open area that is owned by an agency or organization dedicated to conservation." A broader definition of open space can and should include undeveloped land with conservation or recreation potential. Open space and parks are critical to the quality of life in a community and provide a wide range of benefits. Access to parks can contribute public health benefits, enhanced property values, and improved environmental quality including air quality, water quality, and the mitigation of urban heat island effects. Public health benefits

include reducing the incidence of childhood obesity by providing safe places for kids to be active. Open spaces and parks also serve as important meeting places for neighbors to get to know one another.

Determining where the open space and recreation land is located in Walpole is a foundation for fully understanding what resources the town has and how best to manage them. Once this land has been identified, it is important to ensure its protection and maintenance into the future to help guarantee that many more generations of residents can enjoy them. According to the Division of Conservation Services, land within a community is permanently protected if it is managed by the local Conservation Commission or Recreation Department, by Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) agencies, by a nonprofit land trust, or if the municipality received state or federal monies for the improvement or purchase of the land. Typically, land owned by other Town departments or the local school system should not be presumed to be permanently protected, but is partially protected by the nature of its ownership.

Inventory of Conservation, Open Space and Recreation Resources

The inventory matrix below includes 40 townowned areas covering about 2,266 acres of open space, recreation, conservation, and cemetery land owned and managed by the Town of Walpole. These sites comprise the primary open space and recreation resources of the town. Additional publicly or privately owned sites exist in the town for conservation, flood protection, or agriculture and include 9 areas covering about 1,143 acres. An

additional 762 acres of privately owned land is restricted for agriculture or conservation purposes.

The column headings of the inventory are defined below:

- Site Key Provides an easy reference number for identification in the OSRP table.
- Name Names the open space property.
- Ownership Indicates the owner of the property.
- Management Agency Indicates the agency or department responsible for managing and maintaining the property. May be the same as the owner.
- Current Use Details the main use for the site and its facilities.
- Condition Identifies the site condition (excellent, good, fair, or poor). Town-owned open spaces and parks were surveyed to obtain a general sense of the condition of the property and any facilities located on it.
- Recreation Potential Indicates the recreational use of sites. For land not used for recreational purposes, potential for recreational activities is identified.
 Conservation land is generally deemed to have limited recreation potential except for passive recreation such as hiking and walking. Small tax title lands and sensitive environmental areas are presumed to have no recreational potential.
- Public Access Indicates if the public can access the site. All Town- and State-owned sites are publicly accessible.
- Type of Public Grant Accepted Identifies the funds used for the acquisition of or upgrades to the site, including grant funds.
- Zoning District Identifies the zoning district in which the site is located.
- Degree of Protection Indicates if the site, either by virtue of its ownership, existence of deed restrictions, or by the fact that it has

received state or federal funding, is protected from conversion to some other use. Levels of protection are described in more detail later in this section.

• Acres - Gives the site's acreage or an approximation in cases where specific information was not attainable. One acre is 43,560 square feet or 1/640 of a square mile.

Levels of Protection

The level of protection for a particular parcel of land is important information for future planning purposes, it is important to identify the degree of protection for each parcel that has been identified as open space or conservation land in the inventory. Knowing the level of protection may highlight the susceptibility of some properties, which are assumed to be open space, to development. This knowledge can help in identifying those open space and recreation areas that require additional effort in order to ensure their long-term preservation and protection. The following designations regarding level of protection are used in the inventory.

Permanently Protected

Properties in this category are considered to be legally protected for perpetuity. A site is considered to be permanently protected if it is recorded in a deed or other official document. Such land is to be considered protected in perpetuity if it is deeded to and managed by the local Conservation Commission or Parks & Recreation Department and thereby subject to Article 97, if it is subject to a conservation restriction or easement in perpetuity, if it is owned by one of the state's conservation agencies and thereby subject to Article 97, if it is owned by a nonprofit land trust, or if the municipality received federal or state assistance for the purchase or improvement of the property. Private land is considered

protected if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity or a conservation restriction has been placed on it.

Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution protects publicly-owned lands used for conservation or recreation purposes. In order for a property to be sold, transferred, or converted to a different use, Article 97 requires a 2/3 vote obtained at Town Meeting in support of the disposition, a 2/3vote of the Massachusetts Legislature in support of the disposition, demonstration of compliance with applicable funding sources, and the municipality must file an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). Given the extensive nature of this process and the rarity with which the disposition process occurs, these public recreation and conservation lands are assumed to be permanently protected.

Limited Protection

Properties in this category are considered to have limited protection if they are legally protected for less than perpetuity (i.e. short term conservation restriction) or temporarily protected through an existing functional use. These lands could be developed for other uses when their protection expires or when their functional use is no longer necessary or viable. In general, this includes all land owned by other municipal departments or commissions, including lands managed by the Town for non-recreational purposes.

No Protection

Properties in this category are considered to have no legal protection. This category includes land that is totally unprotected by any legal or functional means. This land is usually privately owned and could be sold without restriction at any time for another use.



Table – Inventory of Lands

ı.												
	Site	Name	Ownership	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation	Public	Public Grant	Zoning	Degree of	Acres
_	Key			Agency			Potential	Access	Accepted	District	Protection	
- /ala	Town	Town-owned Land – Parks	d – Parks									
<u> </u>	_	Bird Middle	Town of	Recreation	Multi-use fields	Good	No changes	Full	None	RB	Permanent	7.6
		School	Walpole	Department	for baseball, soft- ball and soccer		anticipated					
					with middle school							
					and parking							
- '	2	Boyden	Town of	Recreation	Multi-use field,	Good	No changes	Full	None	RB	Permanent	9.6
		School	Walpole	Department	playground and		anticipated					
					pool with parking							
	က	Elm Street	Town of	Recreation	Multi-use fields	Fair	No changes	Full	None	~	Permanent	11.5
		School	Walpole	Department	and nature trails		anticipated					
_	4	Fisher	Town of	Recreation	Multi-use field,	Fair	No changes	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	6.0
		School	Walpole	Department	playground,		anticipated					
					nature trails and							
47					pond with parking							
	2	Walpole	Town of	Recreation	Multi-use fields,	Excellent	No changes	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	9.8
		High School	Walpole	Department	synthetic turf field		anticipated					
		Fields			with track and							
					bleachers with							
					baseball, softball,							
					soccer, lacrosse							
					and football fields							
					with parking							
	9	Jarvis Farm	Town of	Recreation	Baseball, bas-	Fair	Potential	Full	None	RB/R	Permanent	24.7
inc		(former	Walpole	Department	ketball, tennis,		for passive					
		Sharon Day			and multipurpose		recreation					
		Camp)			fields							
		Johnson	Town of	Recreation	Multi-use fields	Good	No changes	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	5.5
_		Middle	Walpole	Department	with parking		anticipated					
roo		School										
	8	Memorial	Town of	Recreation	Baseball field,	Good	No changes	Full	None	GR	Permanent	20.0
		Park/Joe	Walpole	Department	playground, pool,		anticipated					
۱.		Morgan			pond, and trails							
		Field			and parking							

Site	Name	Ownership	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation	Public	Public Grant	Zoning	Degree of	Acres
Key			Agency			Potential	Access	Accepted	District	Protection	
9	Mylod Street Fields	Town of Walpole	Walpole Youth Soccer	Soccer Field with parking	Good	No Changes anticipated	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	13.0
10	Old Fisher	Town of Walpole	Recreation Department	Multi-use field with parking	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	1.0
11	Old Post Road School	Town of Walpole	Recreation Department	Multi-use field with baseball, basketball court, and playground with parking	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	RB	Permanent	1.5
12	Stone Field	Town of Walpole	Recreation Department	Multi-use fields with baseball and Blackburn Hall with parking	Good	No changes anticipated	Full	None	GR	Permanent	2.1
own	1-owned Lan	Town-owned Land - Conservation	ıtion								
13	Adams Farm	Town of Walpole (157 acres), Conservation Commission (121.8 acres)	Adams Farm Committee	Network of trails, community garden, barn with parking	Excellent	No changes anticipated	Full	State Grant	PSRC	Permanent (Conserv. Restriction)	278.8
41	Allen Pond Dam/Spring	Town of Walpole (15.2 acres), Conservation Commission (41.2 acres)	Conservation Commission, Ponds Committee	Trail, pond, fishing, skating, and flood control with parking	Good	No changes anticipated	<u></u>	Z Z	PSRC	Permanent	56.3
15	Bay Circuit Trail	Varies	Trails Committee	Trail	Fair	No changes anticipated	Foll	None	Varies	Permanent	₹
16	Boyden School Nature Trail	Town of Walpole	Walpole Schools, Trails Committee	Trail	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	R	Permanent	5.7
17	Bird Estate	Conservation	Conservation Commission, Trails Committee	Trail	Good	No changes anticipated	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	30

Site	Name	Ownership	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation	Public	Public Grant	Zoning	Degree of	Acres
Key			Agency			Potentia!	Access	Accepted	District	Protection	
<u>8</u>	Cedar Swamp	Town of Walpole (133.4 acres), Conservation Commission (263.4 acres)	Commission	Conservation	Fair	Not Appli- cable	E .	None	PSRC	Permanent	396.7
19	Clarks Pond	Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission, Ponds Committee	Nature trail with parking	Fair	Potential additional trail	Full	None	RB	Permanent	14.2
20	Cobbs Pond	Town of Walpole (20 acres), Conservation Commission (32.8 acres)	Conservation Commission, Ponds Committee	Nature trail, pond, fishing with parking	Fair	Potential additional trail	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	52.8
21	Elm Street School/ Goetz Trails	Town of Walpole (7.5 acres), Conservation Commission (87.3 acres)	Conservation Commission, Trails Committee	Nature trails with parking	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	R/PSRC	Permanent	94.8
22	Johnson to Elm Trail	Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission, Trails Committee	Nature trail between two schools	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	₹Z
23	Lincoln Road/ West	Town of Walpole (46.4 acres), Conservation Commission (163 acres)	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	~	Permanent	210.4
24	Memorial Pond	Town of Walpole	Conservation Commission, Ponds Committee	Pond, conservation	Good	No changes anticipated	Full	None	GR	Permanent	24.1

Site Key	Name	Ownership	Ownership Management Agency	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Public Grant Accepted	Zoning District	Degree of Protection	Acres
25	Mine Brook	Town of Walpole (40.5 acres), Conservation Commission (170.2 acres)	Conservation	Conservation	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	210.7
26	Moosehill Road/ Coney Street	Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	RA/RB	Permanent	17.8
27	Moosehill Road/ Chieffain Way	Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	RA	Permanent	9.3
28	Neponset River	Town of Walpole (18.2 acres), Conservation Commission (153.7 acres)	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Good	No changes anticipated	Full	None	Varies	Permanent	171.9
29	North Walpole	Town of Walpole (17.5 acres), Conservation Commission (71.8 acres)	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	88.1
(29)	Peirce Property	Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission	Conservation	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	8
30	Old Fisher	Town of Walpole	Town of Walpole	Conservation	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	1.3

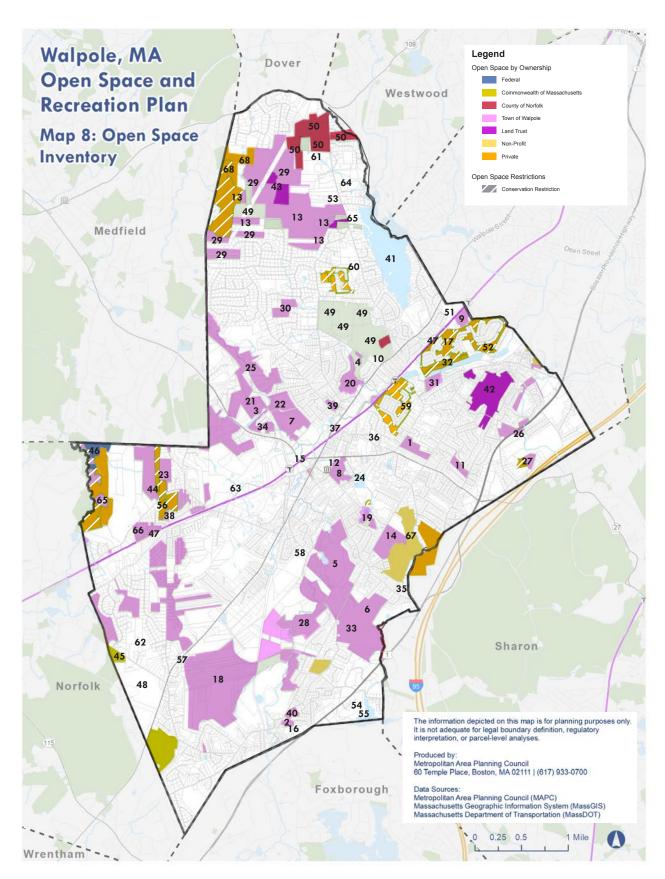
Site	Name	Ownership	Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation	Public	Public Grant	Zoning	Degree of	Acres
Key			Agency			Potential	Access	Accepted	District	Protection	
31	Pinnacle Point	Town of Walpole (3.4 acres), Conservation Commission (14.2 acres)	Conservation Commission, Trails Committee	Trails	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	RA	Permanent	17.9
32	Plimpton/ Endean Trail	Town of Walpole	Conservation Commission, Trails Committee	Trail with parking	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	RA	Permanent (Conserv. Restriction)	Ϋ́
33	Town Forest	Town of Walpole (334 acres), Conservation Commission (32 acres)	Town Forest Committee	Trails, canoe Iaunch	Good	No changes anticipated	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	365
34	Turner Pond	Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission, Ponds Committee	Trail, pond, park- ing	Fair	No changes anticipated	Full	None	PSRC/ RA	Permanent	71.9
Towr	1-owned Lan	Town-owned Land - Cemeteries	es								
35	Guild Cem- etery	Town of Walpole	Public Works – Parks and Cemeteries	Cemetery	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Full	None	RB	Permanent	0.3
36	Maple Grove Cem- etery	Town of Walpole	Public Works – Parks and Cemeteries	Cemetery	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Full	None	GR/RA	Permanent	5.6
37	Old Burial Ground	Town of Walpole	Public Works – Parks and Cemeteries	Cemetery	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Full	None	GR	Permanent	0.5
38	Plains Cemetery	Town of Walpole	Public Works - Parks and Cemeteries	Cemetery	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Full	None	RA	Permanent	1.5

Site	Name	Ownership	Ownership Management	Current Use	Condition	Recreation	Public	Public Grant	Zoning	Degree of	Acres
Key			Agency						District	Protection	
39	Rural Cem- etery	Town of Walpole	Public Works – Parks and Cemeteries	Cemetery	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Full	None	RB/GR	Permanent	6.5
40	Terrace Hill Cemetery	Town of Walpole	Public Works – Parks and Cemeteries	Cemetery	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Full	None	RB	Permanent	8.2
Non-	Profit Land -	Non-Profit Land - Conservation	u								
14	Willett Pond	Neponset River Land Holding Association	Friends of Willett Pond	Conservation	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Public access and use of pond for passive use	None	R/RA/ RB	Permanent (easement)	208
42	Francis William Bird Park	Trustees of Reservations	Trustees of Reservations	Trails with park- ing, conservation	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	94.5
43	New England Forestry Parcels (Patten Memorial Forest and Warren Memorial Forest)	New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF)	NEFF	Conservation	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Full	None	PSRC	Permanent	29
44	Longview Farm	Home for Little Wan- derers	Home for Little Wanderers	Conservation	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Uncon- firmed	None	R	Permanent	159

Cito	Nome	Ownership	Management	Current Ilea	Condition	Perrention	Public	Public Grant	Zoning	Degree of	Acros
200			Agonex			Detential	A CC0C		District	Drotoction	3
Vey			Agency			rorennai	Access	Accepred	DISTRICT	rrorection	
Other	r Public and	Other Public and Unprotected Lands	Lands			,					
45	Common-	Office of the	Office of the	Forested, prison	Not :	Not:	None	None	Varies	None	104
	wealth of Massachu-	Commissioner	Commissioner		Applicable	Applicable					
	setts										
46	Federal	US Bureau of	US Bureau of	Forested	Not Appli-	Not Appli-	None	None	R/CBD	None	25.8
		Land Man-	Land Manage-		cable	cable					
		age.	ment								
47	MBTA	Mass. Bay	MBTA	Transportation	Not Appli-	Not Appli-	None	None	Varies	None	27.5
		Transport.			cable	cable					
		Authority									
48	MWRA	Mass. Water	MWRA	Forested	Not	Not	None	None	~	Limited	94
		Resources			Applicable	Applicable					
		Authority									
46	Norfolk	Norfolk	Norfolk	Agricultural fields,	Not	Not	Passive	None	PSRC/R	Limited	173.1
	County	County	County	baseball field	Applicable	Applicable	rec.				
	Agricultural	Agricultural	Agricultural	and school							
	School	School	School								
20	Norfolk	Norfolk	Norfolk	Land bordering	Not	Not	Passive	None	PSRC/R	Limited	170.8
	County	County	County	Adams Farm and	Applicable	Applicable	rec.				
	Agricultural	Agricultural School	Agricultural School	Patten Memorial							
Priva	telv-owned	Privately-owned Land - Conservation	ervation								
51	Christina	Neponset	Not Applicable	Conservation	Not	Not	None	None	RA	Limited –	13.1
	Drive	Farm Home-			Applicable	Applicable				Conserv.	
		owners Trust								Restriction	
										(CR) to Con Comm	
52	Estates at	Estates at	Not Applicable	Conservation	Not	Not	None	None	RA	Limited –	70.0
	Walpole	Walpole			Applicable	Applicable				CR to Con	
	(former Bird	Homeowners								Comm	
	picperiy,										

Site Key	Name	Ownership	Management Agency	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Public Grant Accepted	Zoning District	Degree of Protection	Acres
53	Falcone	Iris Falcone	Not Applicable	Conservation	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	None	None	<u>~</u>	Limited – Conserv. Easement to Adams Farm trail	₹ Z
54	Ganawatte Pond	Hilltop Land LLC C/O The Gatehouse Companies	Not Applicable	Conservation	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	None	None Z	HBD/R	Limited – Conserv. Restriction (CR) to Con	18.6
55	Ganawattee Farm Pond	Ganawatte Farm Preserve Homeowners Association	Not Applicable	Conservation	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	None	Non e	~	Limited – Conserv. Easement to Con Comm	14.3
56	Glengreen Farm/ Cynthia Green Trail	John and Jennifer Lee	Trustees of Reservations	Residential	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	None	None	ک	Limited – Chapter 61A/CR to Trustees of Reserv.	49.3
57	Main Street 2040-2050	Gary Whitehouse	Not Applicable	Light industrial	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	None	None	×	Limited – Conserv. Easement for Access to Cedar Swamp Con- serv. Comm.	1.6
58	Sterling Lane Con- dominium	7 Sterling Lane Family Trust	Not Applicable	Conservation	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	None	None	Υ ₁	Limited – Conserv. Easement to Con Comm	<u>4</u> .

Site	Name	Ownership	Management	Current Use	Condition	_ K	Public	Public Grant	Zoning	Degree of	Acres
Key			Agency			Potential	Access	Accepted	District	Protection	
29	Wisteria	Wisteria	Not Applicable	Conservation	Not	Not	None	None	&	Limited –	38.7
	Ways II	Ways II			Applicable	Applicable				Conserv.	
	Subdivision	Homeowners Trust								Restriction to Con Comm	
Priva	itely-owned	Privately-owned Land - Restricted	cted								
9	George and	George and	Not Applicable	Tillage	Not	Not	None	None	RA	Limited –	12.1
	Jeanne Ellis	Jeanne Ellis			Applicable	Applicable				Chapter	
										61A	
19	Catherine	Catherine	Not Applicable	Cropland	Not Appli-	Not :	None	None	RA	Limited –	18.3
	Kennedy	Kennedy			cable	Applicable				Chapter 61A	
62	Frank	Frank	Not Applicable	Animal farm	Not	Z _o t To	None	None	RA	Limited –	23
	Mahoney	Mahoney			Applicable	Applicable				Chapter	
										61A	
63	SM Lorusso	SM Lorusso	Not Applicable	Recreation	Not	Not	None	None	RA	Limited –	113.2
	& Sons				Applicable	Applicable				Chapter	
										61B	
64	Tracy Firth	Tracy Firth	Not Applicable	Horse Farm	Not	Not	None	None	RA	Limited –	24
					Applicable	Applicable				Chapter 61A	
65	Jessamine	Jessamine	Not Applicable	Pasture	Not	Z _o t To	None	None	RA	Limited –	12.1
	Warren	Warren			Applicable	Applicable				Chapter 61A	
99	Walpole	Walpole	Not Applicable	Gun club/	Not	Z _o t To	None	None	RA	Limited –	100.3
	Sportman's Club	Sportman's Club		wooded area	Applicable	Applicable				Chapter 61B	
29	Walpole	Walpole	Not Applicable	Golf club	Not	Not	None	None	RA	Limited –	28.2
	Country Club	Country Club			Applicable	Applicable				Chapter 61B	
89	Westwood	Westwood	Not Applicable	Gun club	Not	Not	None	None	RA	Limited –	36.3
	Gun Club	Gun Club			Applicable	Applicable				Chapter	
										OID	





Section 6: Community Vision

Description of the Process

The Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan Core Group guided the development of Walpole's Open Space and Recreation Plan. This Core Group was comprised of representatives from relevant Town departments, boards, and committees. The work of the OSRP Core Group was coordinated and supported by the Town's Conservation Agent. Throughout the planning process, the Core Group and Town staff met regularly with the lead project planner from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to review and contribute to elements of the plan and assist with community engagement strategies. In order to incorporate perspectives from the larger Walpole community, MAPC and the Town of Walpole organized and hosted public forums on October 29, 2019 and September 2020, and administered an online survey.

October 2019 Public Forum

At the October 2019 forum, the lead project planner introduced the purpose and utility of Open Space and Recreation Plans and presented an overview of Walpole's demographics, land use patterns, and highlights of the Town's open space and recreation properties. Following the presentation, members of the public in attendance were invited to ask questions and provide comments about the presentation and the OSRP. Following the Q&A, the forum shifted to an open house style event, with a series of engagement activities available for interested attendees to complete.

At the first station, attendees were presented with a series of boards presenting the OSRP's five subject specific goals (See Section 8: Goals and Objectives) and asked to indicate

whether each Goal should be considered a Low, Medium, or High priority by using dot voting. Participants were also provided space to write any additional goals they would like to see incorporated into the plan. Attendees were invited to complete a "SWOT" analysis of Walpole's open space resources, with space to indicate the system's Strengths and Weaknesses, as well as identify Opportunities and Threats.

Participants were also invited to review a map displaying the inventory of open space and recreation properties throughout Walpole and indicate areas that they enjoy visiting or highlight areas that present challenges. Postits were available to provide park specific comments or suggestions. Please see Section 7: Analysis of Needs for summary and analysis of the received feedback and Appendix C for complete vote tallies and responses.

Open Space and Recreation Survey

In order to provide a wider array of residents, beyond those able to attend the community forums, an opportunity to weigh in on the process MAPC also developed a survey for broad distribution. The survey was administered through an online service, and was widely publicized through a variety of channels, including posting a link to the Town website and social media accounts, posting flyers at Town Hall, and emailing a notice to the Recreation Departments email list. Responses were accepted from January 31, 2020 through February 28, 2020. The survey received 375 responses in total. Please see Section 7: Analysis of Needs for summary and analysis of the received feedback and Appendix C for complete vote tallies and responses.

October 2020 Public Forum

Near the conclusion of the OSRP process, a final public forum was held in October of 2020. At this forum, the lead project planner provided a review of the OSRP process, a recap of the community feedback, presented the draft plan contents, and highlights of the seven-year action plan. Following the presentation, members of the public were invited to ask questions and give comments on the draft plan content. Following the Q&A, the community provided priorities for the Seven-Year Action Plan.

Walpole Open Space and Recreation Vision Statement

Walpole's vision for Open Space and Recreation is a Town with a green open space network with walking and bike trails that connect a series of recreational fields and other community amenities, as well as provide access to natural areas and the town's abundant ponds.

The vision includes an abundance of clean drinking water from our Town wells and other groundwater sources.

The vision includes an abundance of playing fields for youth and adults where overuse does not exist.

The vision includes clean water resources (rivers, ponds, streams, wetlands, and aquifers) for today and the future; where our ponds are clear and free of nuisance aquatic vegetation and available for fishing, boating, skating and other passive recreational uses.

This vision includes walking trails and canoe launches along the Neponset River; trails for dog walking and bridge watching; and habitat for wildlife.

This vision includes a Walpole with a mixture of the new and the old; where our most significant natural, historic, and cultural resources are saved for future generations.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

Introduction

The analysis of Walpole open space and recreation needs is based on information received from the Core Group guiding the Open Space and Recreation Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan community meetings, the Open Space and Recreation Plan community survey, the Athletic Fields Master Plan, townwide Master Plan, and the previous 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan. As it was presented in that plan, the analysis of needs is grouped into three categories: resource protection, community needs, and management needs. The resource protection needs relate to the natural systems and resources of the town. Community needs relate to the needs of the population of the town and the quality of life and lifestyle expectations for the residents of Walpole. The management needs relate to how resources should be managed and what procedures and routines should be in place to ensure appropriate stewardship of these resources over time.

Resource Protection

The protection of the Town's existing and future water supply is a fundamental need for the town. The source of Walpole's drinking water is aquifer-based and drawn on by public wells. The aquifer water supply is finite and irreplaceable and the quality and quantity of water in the aquifer needs to be protected. This protection is achieved both through groundwater protection and treatment in the Mine Brook River and School Meadow Brook watersheds and through the conservation of water resources through regulation and education. The town will need to continue to devote resources to protecting drinking water and respond to any threats identified to the quality or quantity through the continuous and careful monitoring of drinking water resources

in the town.

In addition to protecting drinking water, these protection measures benefit groundwater more generally and help to improve the quality of water in surface water features. The town's many ponds, rivers and streams are a continuous focus for maintenance and improvement efforts to assist the heath and functioning of these natural systems. The need to reduce wastewater contamination, reduce invasive species, and decrease sedimentation should be monitored and managed for each of the town's ponds, rivers, and streams.

The surface water features in the Town are important habitats. Habitat areas include streams, wetlands, river corridors, forests, agricultural lands, and other natural areas that are of critical importance in the Town and should remain a continued focus for resource protection. Protecting and restoring a water body, river, or stream benefits drinking water, groundwater and habitat for both fish and wildlife. These areas include important habitat land including BioMap2 Core and Critical Natural Landscape areas and riparian buffers. The riparian buffers include land within 100 feet of surface waters and wetlands. The conservation and protection of these lands enhances biodiversity and this resource protection remains a priority for the town; particularly as more land continues to face development pressure and may result in fragmented habitat areas.

The review and approval of future development remains an important aspect of resource protection. The Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and other committees and boards responsible for project review should continue to review projects from a perspective of

resource protection and define conditions for approval that will improve conservation and resource protection efforts in the town. This may include placing conservation restrictions on critical portions of a development parcel to add to contiguous conservation areas that may be adjacent to the parcel, to encourage low impact development techniques as part of the development plan, and to retain natural features on the property.

Community Needs

Although the town continues to strengthen a network of convenient and amenity-rich open space resources, many groups within the community may not feel included or accommodated in park and recreation spaces. It is important that a network of parks and open spaces provides active and healthy recreational opportunities for all users and that a sense of inclusiveness and welcome be strengthened among the open space resources. In Walpole, the demographics and community discussion point to seniors among an aging population as the group most in need of future accommodation and a thoughtful approach to inclusiveness.

Seniors, particularly seniors that live alone, are more vulnerable to social isolation and physical and mental health issues that may be associated with lower levels of activity. Parks, open space, and recreational facilities provide settings where seniors can interact with others, get active and exercise, and enjoy the benefits and beauty of the natural surroundings. The needs of elderly residents are generally divided between the younger, more active senior citizens and the less active elderly population that may be experiencing declining health. The less active elderly generally require therapeutic recreational services. More active seniors tend to enjoy walking, golf, tennis and swimming, among other activities. Elderly residents may also have similar needs

as residents with disabilities in terms of their ability to access recreation facilities.

As it relates to open space areas, seniors and those with disabilities would benefit from more benches, paved pathways around parks, sufficient shade trees, and more age-appropriate and low impact active programming such as bocce, shuffleboard, corn hole, and walking groups may be uses that enhance a sense of welcome and inclusion.

Different age and user groups within the town each have particularized needs, which can be accommodated through good planning and design. The use of Universal Design concepts in parks provides accessibility for those with disabilities and enables multi-generational play between youth, teens and seniors. The Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University provides the following seven guiding principles for Universal Design:

- 1. Equitable Use: The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities
- 2. Flexibility in Use: The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- 3. Simple and Intuitive Use: Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
- 4. Perceptible Information: The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities
- 5. Tolerance for Error: The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
- 6. Low Physical Effort: The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.
- 7. Size and Space for Approach and Use: Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use

regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

In order to best serve elderly residents and other individuals with mobility limitations, both the design of internal park layouts and the pathways residents take to access them should be evaluated and improved as necessary. Following these principles helps to reinforce inclusion and welcoming for all users in the community. This type of inclusion can build a sense of social cohesion where individuals of different backgrounds and abilities are coming together to share community spaces and resources. As all users feel more welcomed and invited to participate, the more likely positive social interactions become in these community spaces. This has the potential to create benefits for social cohesion in the community and creates opportunities for other benefits, such as

intergenerational spaces.

Another way to enhance access to the open space resources in Walpole is to enhance the multimodal connections to them. Walpole is already connected to the Bay Circuit Trail, one of the great multimodal trails in the region. The Bay Circuit is a permanent recreation trail and greenway extending through 37 towns in Eastern Massachusetts, linking parks and open spaces in fifty-seven Boston area communities. In Walpole it passes through Walpole Center. As the town considers changes and improvements in Walpole Center, the Bay Circuit Trail should be considered as part of the transportation network improvements. The trail could be improved in the center by improving signage and prominence of the linear park and trail connection.



There are several other great opportunities to create linear park or rail trail connections that would cross the municipality and connect many of the existing open space resources. The first opportunity is the rail corridor along the Framingham and Foxboro Line. This line is shared with an active single-track freight line, but the corridor may have enough width and space to accommodate a multimodal path. The corridor runs through the center of town and could potentially provide a multimodal connection from Walpole to Gillette Stadium and Medfield.

The Walpole-Wrentham Line is another opportunity to connect local assets and make regional connections through a linear park on a past rail corridor. This 17 mile corridor would utilize an abandoned Old Colony Railroad way in Walpole, Norfolk, Wrentham, Plainville and North Attleboro. Locally, this linear park could connect assets such as Bird Park, the middle school, high school, and the Town Forest. This corridor is occasionally interrupted by development, but could be continued using multimodal paths on adjacent residential streets. Future development along the corridor should be required to retain its continuity through a preserved right-of-way or easement. A local friends group, The Friends of the King Philip Greenway, now the Metacomet Greenway, a group of citizen volunteers has been formed to support the trail to advance the utilization of the abandoned railroad corridor.

Other potential future projects include viewing platforms on the recently completed Jarvis Farm Boardwalk connecting to the Town Forest, acquiring trail access to the rail trail at Cedar Swamp, and creating direct access to Cobb's Pond at the end of Castle Terrace.

The Warner Trail is a hiking trail perpendicular to the Bay Circuit running southwest to northeast and connecting Rhode Island to

Sharon MA. Efforts to connect this trail to the north with the Skyline Trail in the Blue Hills would also make this a local entry to regional connections. Near Moose Hill the trail merges with the Bay Circuit into Walpole. Each of these trail locations and opportunities are mapped with a conceptual routing as part of MAPC's Landline plan and trail map.

Increasing the awareness of open space resources in another way to enhance knowledge and access for the community. The Town has open space resources that are underused because people are unaware of the available resources. This fact was evident and confirmed by the number of respondents to the Open Space and Recreation Survey that were not aware of many of the open space resources in town. The existing open space areas need signs, maps, and programs to publicize what resources are available and the amenities offered there.

Management Needs

Management and maintenance of the Town's open space and recreation facilities is critical to the safe functioning and continuing operation of these resources. Maintaining safe and secure access by residents, maintenance of grounds and fields, maintenance of equipment, and protection against vandalism are a few of the many issues which must be addressed on a routine schedule by the Town. Funding for management and maintenance of open space and recreation facilities must be evaluated when considering the acquisition of future resources.

The athletic fields in town are in high demand and have the potential to become overused. This may lead to maintenance issues with the fields unable to rest in many locations to allow for restoration and re-growth of natural turf. Some of the town's fields need drainage improvements to mitigate impacts of overuse. Poor turf coverage and compacted soil from

overuse can lead to hazardous conditions for players. The current field conditions cannot support the ongoing level of play. Many of these needs have been outlined in detail in the Walpole Fields Master Plan (2008) and the Town has made great progress in implementing these recommendations. Increasing maintenance for town fields is a continuing need that is addressed in detail in the fields master plan.

The Community Resilience Building Workshop (2019) also identified management needs to respond to the top four hazards that were identified by the community including flooding, snow and ice, extreme temperatures, and severe weather events. The workshop identified several concerns relevant to this plan and management needs. The town's culverts and bridges need to be assessed with a detailed inventory to catalogue the size and condition of culverts town-wide. The town-owned dams are regulated under State dam safety regulations. Less information

is available for private dams in the town. The town has conducted improvements and repairs to the Allen Reservoir Dam and Turner Pond Dam. The Willett Pond Dam and Bird Pond Dam are known dams of concern that may require improvements or repairs. The feasibility of dam removals has not yet been explored in depth, but may become an important future management consideration as dam maintenance and function may become stressed with increased precipitation and flooding related to climate change.

Increased maintenance of the stormwater management systems in the town may become necessary with increased precipitation and flooding related to climate change. The town's many waterbodies require continued attention and management efforts. In 2018, Walpole completed a pond restoration project on Memorial Pond to dredge the pond's sediment. Other ponds may have similar requirements and benefit from management efforts to reduce excessive weed growth,



sedimentation to improve the environmental conditions and water storage capacity of these water features. The management of invasive plant species is another important routine to follow on the town's open space network. The management of pests and disease control is another important aspect of the open space and conservation lands of the town. Mosquitoes and ticks with vector-borne diseases are increasing in the state and require proactive management to control. Walpole is a voluntary member of the Norfolk County Mosquito District.

The Community Resilience Building Workshop identified the following top recommendations to improve resilience in Walpole. Additional information for these recommendations can be found in the Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings (2019). The highest priority items that are also management needs in the town include:

 Conduct a field inventory of culverts and bridges

- Complete a town-wide dam inventory and assessment of all public and private dams
- Develop a comprehensive tree, forest and land management program
- Assess additional mosquito/tick/pest control options
- Increase maintenance of catch basins, conveyances and detention ponds
 The moderate priority recommendations that are also management needs include:
- Perform a risk assessment of the drinking water pump stations to understand potential vulnerabilities for this important infrastructure, such as floods or extreme weather events
- Study the possibility of expanding the public water supply
- Provide public education and outreach to private well owners
- Continue to offer extended hours at public swimming pools
- Pursue opportunities to fund open space acquisition



- Continue to develop relationship with the Neponset River Watershed Association
- Develop a management plan for Great Cedar Swamp

The lower priority recommendations that are also management needs include:

- Review and revise town stormwater regulations
- Explore options to make town fields and parks more resilient to weather impacts
- Pursue opportunities to fund pond restoration
- Develop comprehensive invasive species management
- Update mapping of town-owned open space and parks

Finally, athletic field needs and field use policy recommendations are outlined in the Town of Walpole Athletic Fields Master Plan (2008) as part of the report's Needs Assessment in Section 4 and site analysis, field use policy and recommendations in Section 5. The town has made progress in improving management and maintenance procedures for athletic fields, but recommendations of the report remain relevant.

One aspect of open space and field management that is not addressed in these previous documents are considerations pertaining to COVID-19. The town's open space resources are likely seeing renewed use and attention during the time of social distancing and outdoors activity. Signage defining safe use of open spaces should be posted at the entry of each open space resource highlighting the importance of safe social distancing and the use of facemasks. For specific resources, other management procedures may be necessary, such as limiting the number of people present at one time, placing social distancing markers on the ground where people may wait for the use of an amenity, or marking painted circles on a

lawn to show proper social distancing.

While these management procedures are shifting dynamically as more is learned about safe and responsible activities during these pandemic times, it is important to highlight them as an important management consideration. One example of this type of responsive and innovative approach to the use of open space resources during this time is the town's Open Space Pilot Program in Walpole Center during the summer of 2020. Street segments in the town center were closed to expand pedestrian space around the town common and to provide additional space for socially distanced seating in an outdoor environment.

Special Group Needs

The focus on Universal Design discussed earlier will help to better meet the needs of several special groups in Walpole including people with disabilities, youth, teens, and seniors. The special need for accessible and multigenerational spaces has been noted and would benefit each of these special needs. Additional amenities and activities could be designed to support this multi-generational approach including additional seating, safe spaces for passive recreation, and sufficient nearby parking. The needs of youth, adults, and seniors are recognized through Walpole Recreation Programs. Teens could be more explicitly recognized in the amenities and programs.

The design process for new parks, park renovations, or other investments in open space should include a significant public process and input from the community with a particular focus on the special group needs to integrate accommodations and amenities that will enhance the ability of all residents to enjoy open spaces and feel welcomed and included in these resources.



Section 8: Goals and Objectives

Introduction

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Core Group decided to accept and reinforce its commitment to the goals and objectives articulated in the Town of Walpole's previous 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan by using those goals as the basis for this plan. Walpole residents also reviewed, commented upon, and affirmed these goals at the October 2019 public forum. These goals were designed to reflect the values of the Walpole community and guide the community's efforts to protect and enhance its open space and recreation resources.

Goals for 2021-2028

The following six goals and their associated objectives guide the 2021-2028 Plan and are based on a review of the Town's recent accomplishments, as well as its vision for the future. The "General Goal" articulates the overarching value statement informing the OSRP, and the remaining goals are categorized between "Conservation Goals" and "Recreation Goals". A series of objectives are nested beneath each of the subjective specific goals, which provide general areas of action to advance the related goal. These goals and objectives provide a continuing mandate for the Town to pursue a coordinated and focused plan for protecting and managing open space and recreation facilities, working collaboratively within the Town and throughout the region to ensure continued protection of our fragile environment, and enhancing public awareness, accessibility, and stewardship of the existing open space resources in Walpole. The numbering and categorization of the Goals and Objectives do not reflect their priority level. All are important components of the

Town's overall open space and recreation activities.

Overall Goal

"Preserve and enhance the overall quality of the natural and cultural environment within the Town of Walpole while providing a well maintained system of parks, recreation facilities and conservation lands, trails, town forest, ponds and other lands subject to land restrictions that meet the diverse needs of the community and make Walpole a healthier community."

Conservation Goals

- Goal 1: Protect and improve the quality of Walpole's surface and ground water.
- Objective 1.1: Protect, preserve and maintain existing and potential groundwater supply, ground water recharge areas and watershed protection districts within the Town to ensure sufficient quantities and quality of safe drinking water.
- Objective 1.2: Enhance the Town's ability to protect rivers, streams, ponds, floodplains and other land important for water quality and wildlife habitat while providing opportunities for passive and active recreational uses.
- Goal 2: Protect and encourage preservation of the Town's natural and cultural resources and passive recreation amenities.
- Objective 2.1: Preserve, through acquisition and/or regulatory strategies, unique and/ or ecologically valuable and significant land areas.
- Objective 2.2: Encourage the preservation and conservation of agricultural parcels and large forested parcels.
- Objective 2.3: Identify and protect wildlife habitats and corridors, particularly those of endangered and threatened species.

- Objective 2.4: Preserve the Town's heritage and character through the preservation of scenic areas, roads, and structures of historic significance.
- Objective 2.5: Acquire additional conservation lands, easements, and restrictions, adjacent to existing Town-owned open space.
- Objective 2.6: Work with Federal, State, Local and private parties to clean up identified brownfields and other existing contaminated lands and ensure that future contamination does not occur.
- Goal 3: Maintain and manage existing Town open space land.
- Objective 3.1: Develop management plans for all Town ponds and other Town-owned Open Space.
- Objective 3.2: Develop a plan for educational programs and accessibility (specifically signage, maps, ADA accessibility, and awareness).
- Objective 3.3: Provide a budget to maintain and manage existing Town Open Space properties.
- Objective 3.4: Forge private, nonprofit and public partnerships to help with management and maintenance of Open Space properties including active and passive recreational areas.
- Objective 3.5: Connect existing and potential Open Space with trails, sidewalks and bicycle paths.
- Objective 3.6: Develop methods to restrict use of motorized vehicles on Town Open Space properties other than Town authorized vehicles.

Recreation Goals

- Goal 4: Continue to expand recreational facilities to provide a wide variety of active recreation opportunities to encourage a healthy and active community.
- Objective 4.1: Continue to implement goals of the trails master plan and revisions.

- Objective 4.2: Continue to implement goals of 2008 Athletic Fields Master Plan.
- Objective 4.3: Encourage public, nonprofit, and private partnerships in planning and development of outdoor recreational facilities.
- Objective 4.4: Encourage multiple uses of recreation and conservation facilities through coordinated efforts of the schools, various
 Town departments and private organizations.
- Goal 5: Maintain and manage existing recreation facilities.
- Objective 5.1: Provide adequate resources and management for the maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.
- Objective 5.2: Educate the public on outdoor opportunities currently available in Walpole.
- Objective 5.3: Develop a plan for making existing, as well as new, playfields AAB/ADA accessible as required.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is the Commonwealth's equivalent of a municipal open space plan. SCORP plans are developed by individual states in order to be eligible for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants. In 2017, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs completed the Massachusetts SCORP to help guide the distribution of federal funding to state agencies and municipalities for the acquisition of open space, renovation of parks, and development of new parks. The SCORP is a planning document that discusses the available recreational resources in a state, as well as its needs, and identifies the gaps between the two. The goals of the 2017 SCORP are to:

 Goal 1: Improve Access for Underserved Populations

- Goal 2: Support the Statewide Trails Initiative
- Goal 3: Increase the Availability of Waterbased Recreation
- Goal 4: Support the Creation and Renovation of Neighborhood Parks

This plan is consistent with these goals and has particular alignment with Goal 2: Support the Statewide Trails Initiative with the asset of the Bay Circuit Trail and other local trail networks throughout the town. Given the existence of trail assets in the community, the focus would be less on the objective of acquiring new land for development of new open spaces that can provide a trail network and more focused on filling gaps in the existing trail network and ensuring that any existing or new trails are fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Another alignment is with Goal 1: Access for Underserved Populations that includes people with disabilities. This plan includes increasing accessibility to new and existing playfields and recreation facilities. One of the SCORP objectives for this goal recommends developing parks and open spaces that offer amenities that go above and beyond ADA requirements for people with disabilities.

Another alignment is with Goal 3: Increase the Availability of Water-based Recreation. The SCORP describes this goal as serving multiple purposes in the protection of water resources. Protecting water resources is a major goal in Walpole's plan. The SCORP objectives associated with this goal include supporting the acquisition of land that will provide for water-based recreation, support the acquisition of land that will increase drinking water supply protection, and develop water-based recreational facilities, including swimming areas, spray parks, boating facilities, fishing areas, or others.

Finally, this plan is aligned with Goal 4:
Support the Creation and Renovation of
Neighborhood Parks in that residents must
know and care about parks and open spaces
to ensure future protection and maintenance.
This plan seeks to expand awareness,
access, and use of open space resources in
Walpole. The SCORP objectives for this goal
include developing amenities supported by
neighborhood parks, such as playgrounds,
off-leash dog parks, and community gardens
and working with community development
organizations to improve walking access to
local parks.





Section 9: Seven-Year Action Plan

Introduction

The Town of Walpole's Open Space and Recreation Plan's Seven Year Action Plan translates higher level goals and objectives into concrete actions for the Town to pursue during the period between 2021 and 2028. It strives to deliver on the goals and objectives expressed throughout this process with a program of tangible steps for the Town to take over the next seven years.

These actions are targeted to address the physical and organizational issues confronting the Town, as described and analyzed in previous sections of this Plan, especially in Chapter 7. This Action Plan attempts to examine various needs and visions realistically in light of current economic conditions, while maintaining a focus on the substantive issues of open space and recreation, preservation, acquisition, enhancement, management, and maintenance.

Progress since the 2011 Plan

Since the development of the 2011 OSRP, the Town has acquired new open space property, maintained its management of open space resources, and actively made improvements to its park and recreation system. Highlighted accomplishments since 2011 include:

- In 2012, the Conservation Commission received ownership of 16 acres of land off Plimpton Street and Atlantic Court. The property includes part of Plimpton Pond and adds to the Town owned property adjacent to Bird Pond.
- The Parks Department made multiple upgrades to the irrigation systems of athletic fields and implemented a rigorous turf management strategy

- The Fisher School field was lengthened to accommodate lacrosse and other youth sports
- New bleachers were installed at Turco field, and an ADA accessible pathway leading to the John Lee Press Box was constructed
- The former Sharon County Day Camp was acquired by the Town, and renamed Jarvis Farm. The 25-acre property includes active recreation facilities, and trails on the property connect to the adjacent Town Forest.
- The Trails Committee received a \$14,000 grant through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) which was used to construct a boardwalk through the Meadow Brook wetland and link Jarvis Farm to the east parcel of the Walpole Town Forest
- The Spring Brook Park Project activated underutilized through landscaping and the construction of a pedestrian bridge across Spring Brook. The Bay Circuit Trail was rerouted through the enhanced green space to connect with Memorial Pond. The project was a collaborative partnership with the Town, Northeastern University, and the American Society of Civil Engineers.
- A new wading pool at the Center Pool was completed in 2015
- Acquisition of Route 1A Land and vote to build new athletic fields
- A vegetable garden was installed at the Old Post Road School in 2014
- A 100th Anniversary event celebrating the Walpole Town Forest was held, featuring tree planting, horse drawn carriage rides, and demonstrations of forestry equipment
- The DPW constructed a rail trail on Town Forest property, running behind the newly constructed police station, community center, and Senior Center.
- The South Walpole common received a new bench dedicated to Mrs. Kathy Winston,

former Selectman, and a new concrete walkway was added to improve the overall appearance of the common.

• The Town purchased roughly 64 acres of land from the state that is deed restricted for conservation and recreation purposes. The deed restriction allowed the Town to acquire the land for a relatively low price. Site designs to use the space for a new athletic fields complex were prepared, and following an unsuccessful Town Meeting vote in spring 2019, funding for an amended proposal including multipurpose turf fields, grass soccer fields, and diamond fields was approved at 2019 Fall Town Meeting.



2021-2028 Action Plan

The Seven-Year Action Plan provides specific recommendations for meeting the goals and objectives in Section 8. The Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee developed the 2021-2028 Action Plan, with guiding input provided by Town staff, the project planner, and citizens who participated in the planning process. Using the 2010-2017 Action Plan as a basis, actions completed since the prior plan were removed from the present version, while actions not yet performed but still relevant were retained. Additional action items were added to reflect new opportunities and priorities. Some of these actions are already in the planning process; others are ongoing but need additional support. The Seven-Year Action Plan lists a wide range of action items, and Map 8 indicates the project areas of select action items.

The following table identifies the specific actions to be undertaken by the Town to implement this plan. Each action item is organized by goals and where applicable, a funding source is identified. The timing for implementation is broken out into shortterm (1 to 3 years), medium-term (4 to 5 years), long-term (6 to 7 years), and ongoing timeframes. The designation of a target year is meant as a guide only; it is more important to be flexible and take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Many items will need to occur over several years and in each case, a primary responsible party or parties is identified. The formation of a committee or board (most likely the Open Space and Recreation Committee mentioned earlier in this plan) will be key to advancing successful implementation of this plan, and it is this group that will take charge of delegating the recommended responsibilities and actions to

Town departments, local nonprofit groups, and other stakeholders. This Committee will also be responsible for public outreach and education regarding actions being taken.

Responsible Parties Acronyms

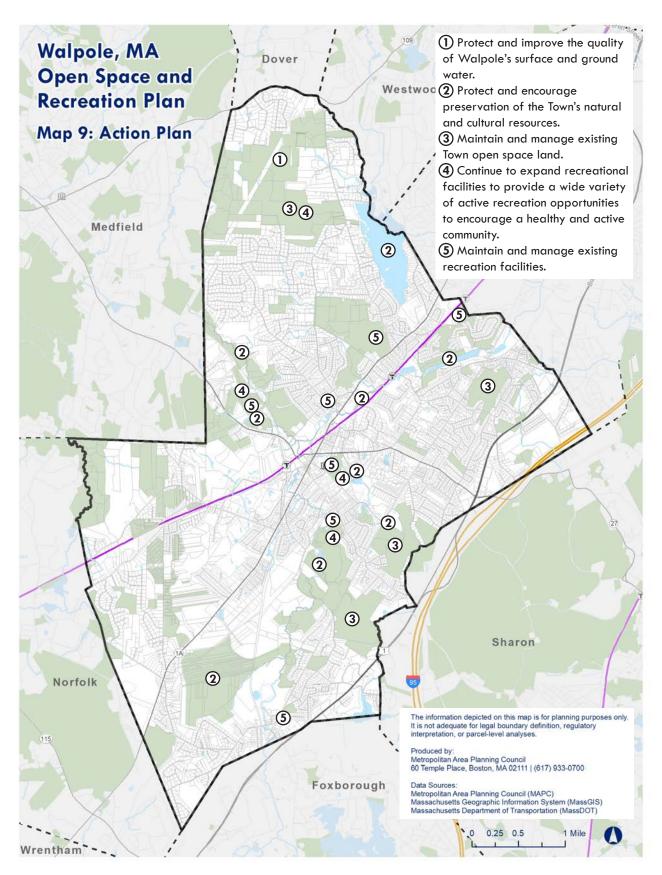
- BOH Board of Health
- BOS Board of Selectmen
- CC Conservation Commission
- COA Council on Aging
- DPW Department of Public Works
- HS Historical Commission
- ODS Office of Dam Safety
- PB Planning Board
- PC Ponds Committee
- PD Parks Department
- RC Recreation Committee
- SWC Sewer and Water Commission
- TC Trails Committee
- WHS Walpole Historical Society
- WPD Walpole Police Department

Details for State funding sources are available at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental's Office of Grants and Technical Assistance website.

List of Potential Funding Sources

- Chapter 90 State transportation funding allocated for roadway projects
- Complete Streets Grants provided through the MassDOT's Complete Streets Funding Program
- CPA Community Preservation Act
- LAND Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity Grant Program through the Division of Conservation Services (DCS)
- LWCF Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program through DCS
- MassTrails Includes both Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants, which are federally funded and Commonwealth Trails grants, which are supported by the state's annual Capital Investment Plan.
- PARC Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant Program through DCS





2021-2028 Action Plan

The Action Plan Goals are listed in priority order based on the Community Survey results, Community Forum notes, and discussion with the OSRP Core Group. The final community forum in October 2020 asked participants to prioritize the OSRP goals. In this prioritization Goal 2 was the highest priority, followed by Goal 3, and then Goal 1. However, this was based on a relatively low number of meeting participants, so the priority order has not been changed. Throughout the OSRP process, priorities have focused on Goals 1, 2, and 3.

Acti	on	Responsible	Potential	Time Frame			
		Parties	Funding Sources				
Goal 1: Protect and improve the quality of Walpole's surface and ground water.							
Obj	ective 1.1: Protect, preserve and maintain	existing and poter	ntial groundwate	r supply,			
grou	und water recharge areas and watershed p	protection districts	within the Town	to ensure			
suff	icient quantities and quality of safe drinki	ng water.					
1.	Coordinate with partners to identify and	CC, Neponset	Massachusetts	Short-term			
	pursue priority watershed restoration	River Watershed	Environmental	(1 to 3			
	projects in these areas.	Association	Trust	years)			
2.	Identify locations for stormwater	DPW, CC, SWC	Massachusetts	Short-term			
	management improvements (e.g.		Division of	(1 to 3			
	undersized culverts or pipes contributing		Ecological	years)			
	to stormwater issues) utilizing the		Restoration's				
	Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness		Culvert				
	(MVP) funded culvert survey.		Replacement				
			Municipal				
			Assistance				
			Grant Program				
3.	Develop stormwater management best	DPW, CC, SWC	Massachusetts	Mid-term			
	practices for municipal systems to enhance		Department of	(4 to 5			
	compliance with Municipal Separate		Environmental	years)			
	Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit		Protection				
	requirements.		Section 319				
			Nonpoint				
			Source				
			Pollution Grant				
			Program				
_	ective 1.2: Enhance the Town's ability to p						
	er land important for water quality and wi	ldlife habitat while	e providing oppo	rtunities for			
pas	sive and active recreational uses.						
1.	Continue with clean-up of invasive species	CC, DPW, SWC	Town staff and	Ongoing			
	that impair water flow, water quality,		funding				
	or negatively impact native plants and						
	animals.						

Act	ion	Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame
2.	Require low impact development and water conservation techniques in new development and redevelopment to reduce water usage and add connections to the surrounding open space network.	PB, CC, SWC	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Program	Short-term (1 to 3 years)
3.	Evaluate existing dam locations and conditions and plan to remove any obsolete dams.	ODS, DPW, CC	Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) Restoration Potential Model Tool, DER Priority Project Program	Long-term (6 to 7 years)

Goal 2: Protect and encourage preservation of the Town's natural and cultural resources and passive recreation amenities.

Objective 2.1: Preserve, through acquisition and/or regulatory strategies, unique and/or ecologically valuable and significant land areas.

1.	Create a new source of funding for land conservation, open space, and preservation through the Community Preservation Act.	BOS, PB	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)
2.	Identify significant BioMap2 lands that are a top priority for protection and encourage conservation restrictions on these properties.	CC, BOS, PB	Commonwealth Conservation Land Tax Credit (CLTC) offered to land owners	Short-term (1 to 3 years)
3.	Explore a transfer of development rights (TDR) program to balance conservation and development.	PB, CC	Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) grant	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)

Acti	on	Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame			
Objective 2.2: Encourage the preservation and conservation of agricultural parcels and large forested parcels.							
1.	Partner to protect Norfolk Agricultural School vacant parcels	CC, BOS, PB	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)			
2.	Work with Norfolk County to pursue conservation restrictions on Norfolk County Agricultural owned property.	CC, BOS, PB	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)			
3.	Encourage landowners to enroll properties in the Chapter 61 program.	CC	Town staff and funding	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)			
4.	Establish a Town of Walpole Agricultural Commission to support agriculture and farming activities.	BOS	Town staff and funding	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)			
5.	Draft and adopt a Right to Farm Bylaw.	BOS	Town staff and funding	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)			
	ective 2.3: Identify and protect wildlife hal angered and threatened species.	oitats and corridor	s, particularly th	ose of			
1.	Identify parcels that would increase large areas of contiguous land and explore appropriate acquisition, conservation, management, or regulations.	CC, PB	Town staff and funding, MassWildlife Land Protection Program	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)			
2.	Work with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to identify all vernal pools in Walpole.	СС, ВОН	Town staff and funding	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)			
	ective 2.4: Preserve the Town's heritage and as, roads, and structures of historic signific	•	gh the preservati	on of scenic			
1.	Define and advance local Historic Districts.	PB, HC, WHS	Town staff and funding	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)			
2.	Promote public awareness of the Scenic Roads Bylaw and the procedures required for changes on these designated roadways.	РВ, НС	Town staff and funding	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)			

Action		Responsible	Potential	Time Frame	
		Parties	Funding Sources		
3.	Identify priority structures for historic	PB, HC, WHS	CPA,	Mid-term	
	preservation and pursue historic		Massachusetts	(4 to 5	
	designation of these structures with the		Preservation	years)	
	National Register for Historic Preservation.		Projects Fund		
Obj	ective 2.5: Acquire additional conservation	n lands, easements	s, and restriction	s, adjacent	
	xisting Town owned open space.			•	
1.	Identify locations that would improve	CC, PB	Town staff and	Short-term	
	access to existing open space resources		funding	(1 to 3	
	(e.g. parcel near Adams Farm, parcel			years)	
	near Cedar Swamp Trail).			, ,	
2.	Establish a fund that can be contributed	BOS	Town staff and	Short-term	
	to each year for acquisition of priority		funding	(1 to 3	
	conservation lands.			years)	
Ohi	ective 2.6: Work with Federal, State, Local	and private partie	s to clean un ide		
	wnfields and other existing contaminated l		•		
1	s not occur.	did did ciisore i			
1.	Follow the success of local innovative	BOS, PB	Town staff and	Mid-term	
' '	models for productive use of brownfield		funding	(4 to 5	
	sites for solar energy (e.g. the Bird			years)	
	Machine Solar Farm).			, , , , , ,	
2.	Partner with owners of suspected	BOS, PB	Environmental	Mid-term	
	brownfields where contamination is	500,15	Site Assessment	(4 to 5	
	not known, to pursue Environmental		funding from	years)	
	Site Assessment funding from the		Massachusetts	700137	
	Massachusetts Brownfield Redevelopment		Brownfield		
	Fund.		Redevelopment		
	i ona.		Fund		
Gas	I 3. Maintain and manage existing Town	non space land	110110	<u> </u>	
	of the State of th	-	nd athor Tayer a	wood Once	
Spa	ective 3.1: Develop management plans for ce.	an rown ponds d	ma omer town-o	wned Open	
1.	Develop pond management plans for	PC, DPW, CC	Town staff and	Mid-term	
''	Clarks, Turners, Cobbs, and Memorial	3, 2 , 33	funding	(4 to 5	
	Ponds. Memorial Pond was recently			years)	
	dredged.			, , , ,	
2.	Develop open space management best	DPW, CC	Town staff and	Short-term	
۷٠		Dr vv, CC	funding		
	practices with a baseline for each open		i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	(1 to 3	
	space resource in the town and specific			years)	
	management requirements for unique				
	activities or features.				

Acti	on	Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame			
Objective 3.2: Develop a plan for educational programs and access (specifically signage,							
maj	os, and awareness).						
1.	Promote awareness of open space amenities through education and outreach.	BOS, CC, PB, RC, TC	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)			
2.	Continue current recreation programming in the parks with adaptation for future community needs or requests.	RC	Town staff and funding	Long-term (6 to 7 years)			
3.	Address specific ADA and universal access improvements that have been defined in the ADA Self Assessment Appendix.	BOS, CC, PB, RC, TC	Town staff and funding	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)			
Obj	ective 3.3: Provide a budget to maintain a	nd manage existin	g Town Open Sp	ace			
pro	perties.						
1.	Define best practices list of annual maintenance procedures for each Townowned recreation and conservation land.	DPW, CC	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)			
2.	Identify resources and partners to bridge gap between best practices and current practices integrating efforts with community clean-up days and other volunteer opportunities.	DPW, CC	Town staff and funding	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)			
Obi	ective 3.4: Forge private, nonprofit and pu	blic partnerships t	o help with man	agement			
l -	maintenance of Open Space properties in		-	_			
1.	Support development of "Friends of" groups to supplement management and maintenance activities and funding needs for open space properties.	BOS, RC, PD	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)			
2.	Assist interested Town residents to organize for improvements to parks and open spaces.	RC, TC, PD	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)			
Obj	ective 3.5: Connect existing and potential	Open Space with t	rails, sidewalks	and bicycle			
pat	ns.						
1.	Identify and prioritize sidewalk installations, extensions or improvements that would expand connections between neighborhoods and open spaces.	TC, PB, DPW	Massachusetts Complete Streets Grants	Ongoing			

		Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame
2.	Support the development and design of the Walpole-Wrentham Line rail trail and linear park, with potential to extend from Attleboro to Plainville, working with other regional partners such as the Friends of King Philip Greenway.	TC, PB, DPW	Massachusetts MassTrails Grants; Federal Transportation Alternatives	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)
3.	Explore the development and design of a rail trail parallel to the active rail corridor of the Framingham-Foxboro Line.	TC, PB, DPW	(TA) Program Massachusetts MassTrails Grants; Federal TA Program	Long-term (6 to 7 years)
4.	Advance a trail extension behind the Senior Center under Common Street toward Walpole Center in coordination with Housing Authority.	TC, PB, DPW	Massachusetts MassTrails Grants; Federal TA Program	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)
5.	Improve visibility, signage and integration of the Bay Circuit Trail with Walpole Center transportation improvements.	TC, PB, DPW	DHCD Downtown Initiative	Short-term (1 to 3 years)
1 -	ective 3.6: Develop methods to restrict use perties other than Town authorized vehicle		icles on lown Op	pen Space
1.	Increase signage that defines restrictions for motor vehicles or other activities at town open spaces.	CC, DPW	MA EOEEA PARC grant program	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)
2.	Increase police patrol and enforcement where motorized vehicle use of open space is identified.	WPD, CC, DPW	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)
	ıl #4: Continue to expand recreational faci	•	-	active
	eation opportunities to encourage a health	-		
_	ective 4.1: Continue to implement goals of	l .	Ī	1
1.	Pursue the design and installation of consistent trail marking systems that provide uniform and recognizable trailhead markers and blazes.	TC, CC, DPW	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)
2.	Support and work with friends groups and volunteer efforts to maintain trails and forge new trails.	TC, CC, DPW	Town staff and funding	Ongoing

Acti	on	Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame				
Obj	Objective 4.2: Continue to implement the goals of the 2008 Athletic Fields Master Plan.							
1.	With new playing fields in place, enforce Walpole Field Use Policies and Procedures for all fields to maintain field conditions.	RC, BOS	Town staff and funding	Ongoing				
2.	With new playing fields in place, set aside funds and time period to renovate existing facilities	BOS, DPW	Town staff and funding	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)				
3.	Provide annual town operating budget funding to renovate and maintain existing fields.	BOS	Town staff and funding	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)				
4.	Continue to install state-of-the-art water conserving irrigation systems at all town fields.	BOS, DPW	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)				
	ective 4.3: Encourage public, nonprofit, an elopment of outdoor recreational facilities		hips in planning	and				
1.	Leverage Earth Day, Town beautification days, or other annual volunteer traditions to advance volunteer improvements at town open spaces.	BOS, PD	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)				
2.	Partner with the Norfolk Agricultural School and other private schools to share outdoor resources and strengthen connections to nearby open space assets.	BOS, PD	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)				
	ective 4.4: Encourage multiple uses of recr rdinated efforts of the schools, various Tov			-				
1.	Use scheduling procedures to maximize coordination and use of shared facilities.	RC, PD	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)				
2.	Identify town-owned property that could be used more flexibly for additional active recreation uses.	CC, PB, RC, PD	Town staff and funding	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)				
God	ıl #5: Maintain and manage existing recre	ation facilities.						
1 -	ective 5.1: Provide adequate resources and recreation facilities.	d management for	the maintenanc	e of parks				
1.	Codify field maintenance operations outlined in the 2008 Athletic Fields Master Plan into a written plan of annual maintenance standards for each field.	PD	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)				

Acti	on	Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame
2.	Continue to increase annual Town budget for field maintenance.	BOS, DPW	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)
3.	Continue to build Department of Public Works staff capacity for field maintenance.	BOS, DPW	Town staff and funding	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)
Obj	ective 5.2: Educate the public on outdoor o	pportunities curre	ntly available in	Walpole.
1.	Create a user-friendly inventory of publicly accessible open space based on the OSRP inventory with the location, a photo, and description of amenities for each resource.	CC, PD, TC	Town staff and funding	Short-term (1 to 3 years)
2.	Develop a consistent welcome signage and a wayfinding system to be installed at all open spaces.	CC, PD, TC	Town staff and funding, DHCD's Downtown Initiative Grant Program	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)
1 -	ective 5.3: Develop a plan for making exisessible as required.	ting, as well as ne	ew, playfields A	AB/ADA
1.	Add universal accessibility play features to town playgrounds.	BOS, DPW, PD	Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act Grant	Mid-term (4 to 5 years)
2.	Address accessibility needs defined in the Accessibility Self Evaluation and outlined in the 2008 Athletic Fields Master Plan.	BOS, DPW, PD	Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act Grant	Short-term (1 to 3 years)

Potential Local Funding Sources Community Preservation Act

The establishment of a real estate transfer tax was signed into law on September 14, 2000 as the Community Preservation Act (CPA). CPA is a tool for communities to preserve open space, park and recreational facilities, historic sites, and affordable housing. The Community Preservation Act is statewide enabling legislation that allows cities and towns to exercise control over local planning decisions by providing an additional funding source. CPA must be enacted locally through a Town Meeting vote. The funding created through it can be used to address four core community

- Acquisition and preservation of open space
- Improve park and recreation facilities
- Creation and support of affordable housing
- Acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes

A minimum of 10% of the annual revenues of the fund must be used for each four core community concerns. The remaining 70% can be allocated for any combination of the allowed uses. This gives each community the opportunity to determine its priorities, plan for its future, and have the funds to make those plans happen.

Potential State and Federal Funding Sources Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Program

The LAND Program (formerly the Self-Help Program) was established in 1961 to assist municipal conservation commissions acquiring land for natural resource and passive outdoor recreation purposes. Lands acquired may include wildlife, habitat, trails, unique natural, historic or cultural resources, water resources, forest, and farmland. Compatible passive outdoor recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, bird

observation and the like are encouraged. Access by the general public is required. This state program pays for the acquisition of land, or a partial interest (such as a conservation restriction), and associated acquisition costs such as appraisal reports and closing costs.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

This is a federal program administered by the State Division of Conservation Services for the acquisition and development or renovation of park, recreation and conservation land. The Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (P.L. 88-578) provides up to 50% of the total project cost for the acquisition, development and renovation of park, recreation or conservation areas. Municipalities, special districts and state agencies are eligible to apply. Nearly 4000 acres have been acquired and hundreds of parks renovated using the \$95.6 million that Massachusetts has received from the state side portion of the federal program since 1965. DCS administers the state side Land & Water Conservation Fund program in Massachusetts. Access by the general public is required.

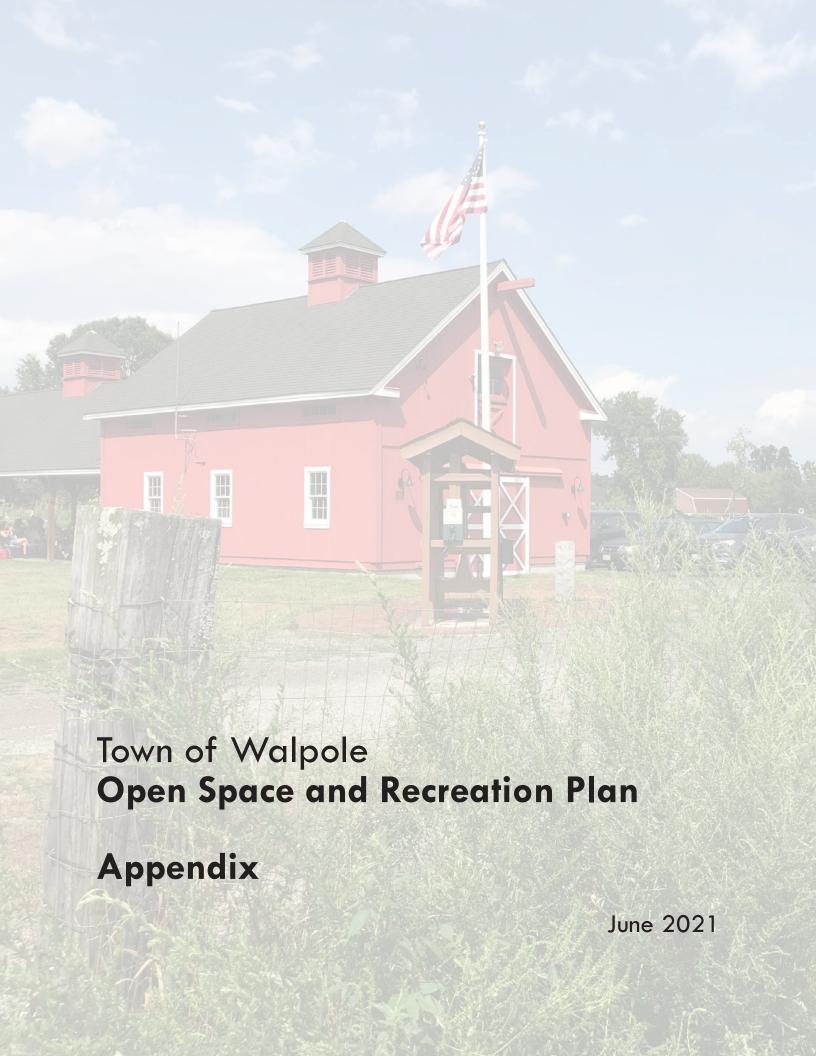
Recreational Trails Grant Program (RTGP)

The Recreational Trails Program provides grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000 on a reimbursement basis for a variety of trail protection, construction, and stewardship projects throughout Massachusetts. It is part of the National Recreational Trails Program, which is funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Funds are disbursed to each state to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. In Massachusetts, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) administer funds, in partnership with the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board.

Town of Walpole

Open Space and Recreation Plan

June 2021



The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) prepared this plan on behalf of the Town of Walpole in close coordination with Walpole staff and leadership.

Funding for this plan was made possible through a grant made to the Town of Walpole from the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Additional funding was provided from Planning for MetroFuture Technical Assistance (PMTA) from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

Cover Image: Adams Farm photo by MAPC

Appendix

Section	A:	Public Comments	page	A.	5

Section B: Survey Results A15

Section C: ADA Accessibility Self Evaluation A57

Appendix

Section A: Public Comments

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Core
Team received public comments regarding the
Open Space and Recreation Plan throughout
the planning process. Two advertised public
meetings were held during the drafting of the
OSRP and to review the draft plan. One public
meeting was held on October 29th, 2019 and
a second public meeting was held on October
1st, 2020.

Comments received at these meetings have been incorporated into the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Review letters from the Walpole Board of Selectmen, Walpole Town Administrator, Walpole Planning Board, and Walpole Conservation Commission are provided below.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council has also offered a letter of review.

Following the letters are summaries of the public comments and exercises that occurred at the two public community meetings.

SELECT BOARD

Benjamin Barrett, Chair Nancy Mackenzie, Vice Chair Mark Gallivan, Clerk James O'Neil David Salvatore



Walpole Town Hall 135 School Street Walpole, MA 02081 Phone (508) 660-7277

November 10, 2020

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Town of Walpole Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Walpole Select Board is pleased to submit and recommend approval of the 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The process chosen by the Town to update the plan its first update since 2011, reached out to Walpole residents. It enabled the Town's staff, committees and our consultant to compile many opinions and observations that are necessary to create a vision for the future.

The updated Plan provided the Town of Walpole with clear guidance on how to prioritize our open space efforts with concise action items that we can accomplish over the next seven years. In general, we hope to preserve and enhance the overall quality of the natural and cultural environment within the Town of Walpole while providing a well maintained system of parks, recreation facilities and conservation lands, trails, town forest, ponds and other lands subject to land restrictions that meet the diverse need of the community and contribute to making Walpole a healthier community.

We look forward to achieving the goal outlined in the Plan and build on the work that has already been done in creating and preserving open space in the Town of Walpole.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Barrett

Select Board Chair



Town of WalpoleCommonwealth of Massachusetts

Walpole Town Hall 135 School Street Walpole, Ma. 02081 Phone (508) 660-7300 Fax (508) 660-7303

Town Administrator

James A. Johnson

October 26, 2020

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Town of Walpole Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Town of Walpole is pleased to submit and recommend the approval of the 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The updated Plan provides the Town of Walpole with clear guidance on how to prioritize our open space efforts with concise action items spread out over the next seven years. In general, we hope to preserve and enhance the overall quality of the natural and cultural environment. In order to do this, the Town has prioritized providing a well-maintained system of parks, recreation facilities and conservation lands, trails, the town forest, ponds, and other lands that contribute to making the plan making Walpole a healthier community.

To do this, the Open Space and Recreation Committee has identified the following specific conservation and recreation goals:

- 1. Protect and improve the quality of Walpole's surface and ground water
- 2. Protect and encourage preservation of the Town's natural and cultural resources
- 3. Maintain and manage existing Town open space land
- 4. Continue to expand recreational facilities to provide a wide variety of active recreation opportunities to encourage a healthy and active community
- 5. Maintain and manage existing recreation facilities

We look forward to achieving the goals outlined in the Plan and build on the work that has already been done in creating and preserving open space in the Town of Walpole.

Sincerely,

James A. Johnson Town Administrator

/ Select Board



Conservation Commission

Town Hall
Room 212
135 School Street
Walpole, MA 02081
Phone (508) 660-7268
Fax (508) 668-2071

Town of Walpole

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

February 4, 2021

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114
RE: Town of Walpole 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Conservation Commission at our February 3, 2021 meeting discussed and voted to support the 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan as drafted by the open space and recreation core group with assistance from the Metropolitan Planning District (MAPC). The Commission is pleased with the plan and feel as though it is an accurate representation of Walpole's open space and recreation resources, and Walpole's community needs and goals.

The Walpole Conservation Commission has always been a champion of the protection of open space in town for the enjoyment of recreation and for the protection of natural resources and we look forward to the next 7 years.

Jack V. Wiley, Chair Walpole Conservation Commission

[INSERT PLANNING BOARD LETTER]



December 22, 2020

Melissa Cryan
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Walpole Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

This letter will serve as MAPC's review of the Town of Walpole 2021-2028 Open Space and Recreation Plan. MAPC enjoyed working with the Town of Walpole to develop this plan. It was written to comply with the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) guidelines and to integrate a regional perspective on the issues addressed during the planning process. We have also worked to make the plan consistent with the goals and objectives of MetroFuture, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area. We believe that the participation of Town staff and the Open Space and Recreation Committee, as well as MAPC's regional perspective, has generated a plan that will help to guide the Town in its continued efforts to improve open space and recreation opportunities and facilities in Walpole.

MAPC wishes the best of luck to the Town as it moves forward with implementation of the plan.

Sincerely,

Ralph Willmer, FAICP
Principal Planner and Technical Assistance Program Manager



Charles D. Baker GOVERNOR

Karyn E. Polito LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Kathleen A. Theoharides SECRETARY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114

> Tel: (617) 626-1000 Fax: (617) 626-1181

January 27, 2021

Josh Fiala Metropolitan Area Planning Commission 60 Temple Place Boston, MA 02111

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. Fiala:

Thank you for submitting the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan for Walpole to this office for review and compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. This plan was particularly thorough and has been conditionally approved through January 2028. Conditional approval will allow the town to participate in DCS grant rounds through January 2028, and a grant award may be offered to the town. However, no final grant payments will be made until the plan is completed.

Once the following items are addressed, your plan will receive final approval:

- 1. There were many times throughout the OSRP that the OSRP Planner's Workbook format was not followed. In future plans that you may work on, please follow that format as it makes it far easier for the review and has been set up in a particular way after much thought by EEA.
- 2. Introduction the Planning Process and Public Participation section should discuss how the public survey was advertised.
- 3. History of the Community please update the "turn of the century" verbiage as I'm presuming you mean the turn of the 20th century, not the 21st century.
- 4. Population Characteristics information on the town's population density needs to be included.
- 5. Growth and Development Patterns the Transportation section should include information on cycling options.
- 6. Fisheries and Wildlife a general inventory must be added.
- 7. Environmental Challenges please add sections on landfills, erosion, chronic flooding, development impact, and environmental equity. Environmental equity refers to looking at the distribution of open space and recreation resources in the town and identifying any areas that are lacking in them.
- 8. Section 5 the condition column in the table of town-owned conservation and recreation properties should be filled in for conservation properties as well ("not applicable" isn't an answer that makes sense here). Article 97 is not a type of grant and shouldn't be used to fill in that column. Please note that this information is only required for town-owned

- conservation and recreation properties. Any Conservation Restrictions or Agricultural Preservation Restrictions in the town should be listed in Section 5, as well as any land trust properties.
- 9. Analysis of Needs the Community's Needs section should include the needs of special groups, such as teens.
- 10. Goals and Objectives redate the plan to start in 2021 since it was not submitted until 2021 (it's currently dated 2020-2027).
- 11. Seven Year Action Plan the goals and objectives should be listed in some sort of priority order
- 12. Letters of Review a letter from the planning board is needed.
- 13. Maps the Water Resources map should include wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, and the town's watershed(s). The Unique Features map must include scenic landscapes, unusual geologic features, and cultural and historic areas. The Inventory map should denote ownership (federal, state, local, etc.) include conservation restrictions and agricultural preservation restrictions, and have a key. I understand that the table that lists town-owned conservation and recreation properties has a column with the number that correlates to the map, but the map should include a key as well for ease of reading.

Congratulations on undertaking such an important task! Please contact me melissa.cryan@mass.gov if you have any questions or concerns, and I look forward to reviewing your final plan.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cryan

Melissa Cryan Grant Programs Supervisor

June 23, 2021

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Re: Walpole Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

MAPC has received your DCS letter of review and compliance for the Walpole Open Space and Recreation Plan with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements dated January 27, 2021. On behalf of the Town of Walpole, we are pleased to submit this final plan with the review comments incorporated as outlined below.

DCS Comment 1) There were many times throughout the OSRP that the OSRP Planner's Workbook format was not followed. In future plans that you may work on, please follow that format as it makes it far easier for the review and has been set up in a particular way after much thought by EEA.

Response: Acknowledged.

DCS Comment 2) Introduction – the Planning Process and Public Participation section should discuss how the public survey was advertised.

Response: On page 9 the following description was added, "The public survey was advertised on the town website, Facebook page, and Twitter account. The survey was also advertised at Town Hall and announced at Conservation Commission meetings.

DCS Comment 3) History of the Community – please update the "turn of the century" verbiage as I'm presuming you mean the turn of the 20th century, not the 21st century.

Response: On page 14, "turn of the century" has been replaced with "at the beginning of the twentieth century."

DCS Comment 4) Population Characteristics – information on the town's population density needs to be included.

Response: On page 15 added, "At a total of 21.0 square miles of area, the population density of the town is 1,186 residents per square mile."

DCS Comment 5) Growth and Development Patterns — the Transportation section should include information on cycling options.

Response: On page 21, a discussion of bicycle infrastructure was added: "Currently, the Town of Walpole does not have on-street bicycle accommodations or infrastructure. The town does have some off-street bicycle path options that are natural surface paths, parts of which may be appropriate for an off-road bicycle, such as the Bay Circuit Trail. As discussed later in this plan, several expanded rail trails are proposed that would strengthen multimodal connections to surrounding communities. The town has also recently undertaken a Complete Street prioritization process that has identified several locations for bicycle infrastructure improvements."

DCS Comment 6) Fisheries and Wildlife – a general inventory must be added.

Response: On pages 35 and 36, an expanded discussion of fisheries and wildlife was added with information from BioMap2, a general wildlife inventory, and inventory of fishing locations and common fish.

DCS Comment 7) Environmental Challenges — please add sections on landfills, erosion, chronic flooding, development impact, and environmental equity. Environmental equity refers to looking at the distribution of open space and recreation resources in the town and identifying any areas that are lacking in them.

Response: On pages 38, 39, 40, and 41 subsections for Erosion, Chronic Flooding, Landfills, Development Impact, and Environmental Equity have been added.

DCS Comment 8) Section 5 — the condition column in the table of town-owned conservation and recreation properties should be filled in for conservation properties as well ("not applicable" isn't an answer that makes sense here). Article 97 is not a type of grant and shouldn't be used to fill in that column. Please note that this information is only required for town-owned conservation and recreation properties. Any Conservation Restrictions or Agricultural Preservation Restrictions in the town should be listed in Section 5, as well as any land trust properties.

Response: The condition of town-owned conservation properties has been added to the inventory table. Article 97 has been removed from the "public grant accepted" column. All known conservation restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions, and land trust properties in the town are listed in the Section 5 inventory table.



DCS Comment 9) Analysis of Needs – the Community's Needs section should include the needs of special groups, such as teens.

Response: On page 65, an additional sub-section for "Special Group Needs" has been added to highlight the needs of special groups, including teens, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities.

DCS Comment 10) Goals and Objectives – redate the plan to start in 2021 since it was not submitted until 2021 (it's currently dated 2020-2027).

Response: The cover date of the plan has been edited to June 2021. On pages 65, 69, 70, and 73, the date references have been edited to be 2021-2028.

DCS Comment 11) Seven Year Action Plan – the goals and objectives should be listed in some sort of priority order.

Response: The Action Plan Goals are listed in priority order based on the Community Survey results, Community Forum notes, and discussion with the OSRP Core Group. The final community forum in October 2020 asked participants to prioritize the OSRP goals. In this prioritization Goal 2 was the highest priority, followed by Goal 3, and then Goal 1. However, this was based on a relatively low number of meeting participants, so the priority order has not been changed. Throughout the OSRP process, priorities have focused on Goals 1, 2, and 3. This explanation has been added to the top of the 2021-2028 Action Plan Table on page 75.

DCS Comment 12) Letters of Review – a letter from the planning board is needed.

Response: A letter from the Planning Board has been included in Appendix Section A page A9. A letter from the Conservation Commission has been included in Appendix Section A page A8.

DCS Comment 13) Maps — the Water Resources map should include wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, and the town's watershed(s). The Unique Features map must include scenic landscapes, unusual geologic features, and cultural and historic areas. The Inventory map should denote ownership (federal, state, local, etc.) include conservation restrictions and agricultural preservation restrictions, and have a key. I understand that the table that lists town-owned conservation and recreation properties has a column with the number that correlates to the map, but the map should include a key as well for ease of reading.

Response: Map 5: Water Resources on page 29 has been updated to include wetlands in the legend (wetlands were previously included on the map), added aquifer areas (high yield and medium yield aquifers), and annotated the town's watersheds (Charles River Watershed, Boston Harbor Watershed, and Taunton Watershed). Map 7: Unique Features on page 34 has been updated to include scenic landscapes with five notable locations from the Conservation Agent,



unusual geologic features have been added to the legend, and cultural and historic areas from the MassHistoric Commission Inventory have been added. Map 8: Open Space Inventory on page 55 has been updated to include ownership (federal, state, county, local, land trust, non-profit, or private), include conservation restrictions, and a legend. No agricultural preservation restrictions are present.

The DCS review letter received January 27, 2021 and this response letter have both been included in Appendix 1 of the final plan.

Sincerely,

Josh Fiala, AIA AICP LEED AP Principal Planner

Community Meeting Summary

October 1st, 2020 Virtual Meeting hosted through Zoom

About 15 meeting attendees

Meeting Notes

The meeting agenda included a brief presentation by MAPC, question and comment session, and prioritization exercise.

The presentation included an introduction and process review for the OSRP, recap of Community Meeting #1 feedback, recap of Community Survey feedback, and Seven-year Action Plan highlights.

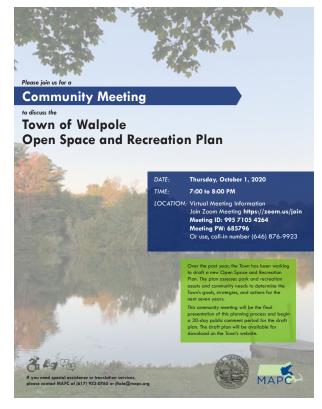
The community feedback portion of the meeting included a question and comment session and review and prioritization of the Seven-year Action Plan.

Meeting Feedback

During the comment period several comments were offered by a member of the OSRP Core Group to highlight several parts of the draft plan, posing a question about implementation grant sources, and providing an update that the Master Plan will be funded for the town. Links to the draft plan and email addresses for comments were shared with the attendees. The meeting opened a month-long comment period for the draft plan.

Meeting Outreach

The meeting was publicly hosted virtually through Zoom. The following flyer was posted on the Town website and distributed through town social media to provide notice for the Community Forum.



Community Meeting Summary

October 29th, 2019 Town Hall

About 15 meeting attendees

Meeting Notes

The meeting agenda included a brief presentation by MAPC and open house activities to engage participants in the OSRP process.

The presentation included an introduction to the Walpole Open Space and Recreation Plan process, overview of demographic and land use trends, and overview of select parks and open spaces in Walpole.

The open house activities included reviewing and prioritizing draft goals, a strength, weakness, opportunity and threat (SWOT) analysis, and an inventory map of community likes and needs for improvement.

Meeting Feedback

In the SWOT analysis the community participants listed Strengths as: numerous bodies of water; Weaknesses as: public access is low to Adams Farm, high cost to maintain and make safe for public use, limited use of fields, no night use, limited due to weather; Opportunities as: opportunity for a perimeter boardwalk around Cobb's Pond (this was considered several years ago), Town Ponds, Bird Park, opportunity to create recreation opportunities for seniors and special populations, intergenerational recreation, need tree cover for shade for walking trails, etc., reestablish open space zoning in Walpole; Threats as: the problem with utilizing existing bodies of water - there is a lot that goes in to operating such bodies of water - testing, staffing, etc., climate change, EEE, careful how we maintain and site areas, town should

take more effort to protect the aquifer, \$1 million was spent to dredge Memorial Pond, yet it does no have a properly sized aerator to keep it from being overcome by plant and algae.

Meeting Outreach

The meeting was publicly hosted in the Main Meeting Room of Walpole Town Hall. The following flyer was posted on the Town website and physically at Town Hall to provide notice for the Community Forum.



Community Forum

The Town of Walpole is updating its Open Space & Recreation Plan and would like your input. Open Space & Recreation Plans allow cities and towns to maintain and enhance the benefits of open space that make up much of the character of the community and protect its "green infrastructure." Please join us and be part of the discussion about the future of parks, recreational facilities, playgrounds, and natural areas in our community. Refreshments will be served.

Need special accommodations at the event? Contact Landis Hershey at Ihershey@walpole-ma.gov or Joseph Sacchi at jsacchi@mapc.org to tell us about your needs. WHEN? Tuesday, October 29, 2019 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

> WHERE? Town Hall Main Meeting Room 135 School Street Walpole, MA 02081



Appendix

Section B: Public Open Space and Recreation Survey

A Community Survey was prepared to expand outreach and engagement of Walpole residents in the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Community Survey was made available online through the Town's website and paper copies were made available upon request. The availability of the survey was publicly advertised and promoted.

The Community Survey was available for responses from February 2020 through March 2020. The Community Survey received 375 responses.

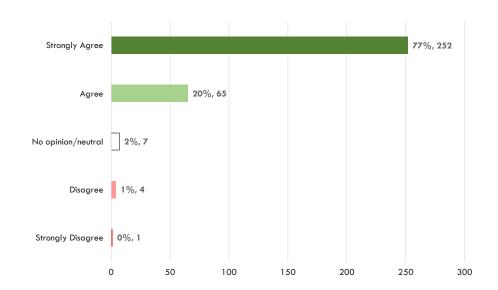
The compiled Community Survey responses are included below followed by the Community Survey form.



Community Values

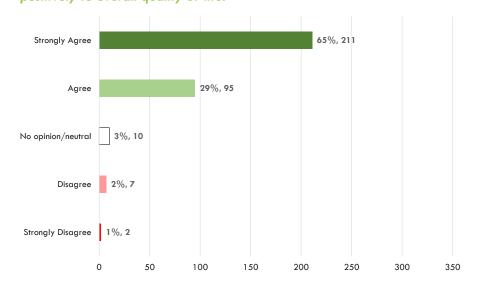
■ Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Preserving Walpole's open space and natural areas is important to me.

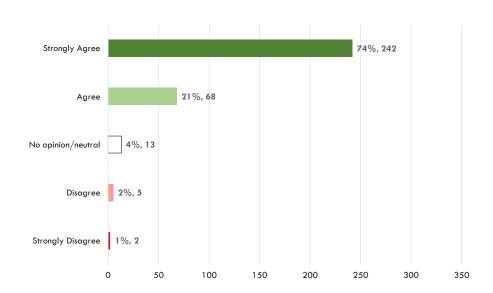


■ Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

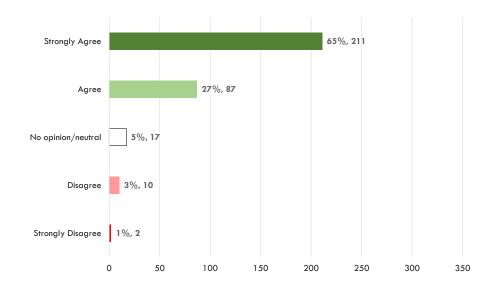
*Walpole's existing open space and recreational amenities contributes positively to overall quality of life.



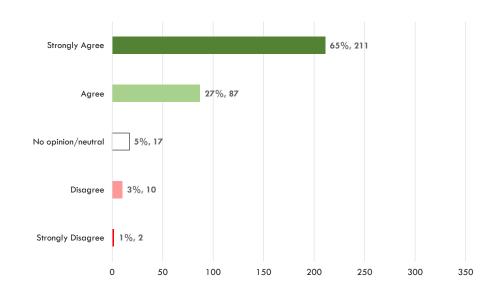
- Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
 - •Walpole needs to proactively preserve what open space is left.



- Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
 - Walpole needs to proactively plan for the recreational needs of its residents.



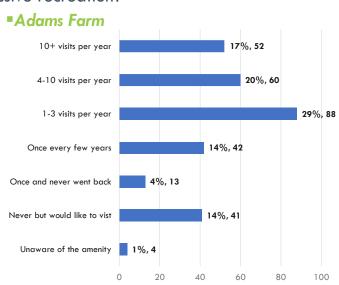
- Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
 - Walpole needs to proactively plan for the recreational needs of its residents.



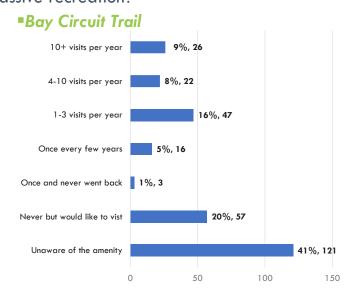
Awareness and Usage



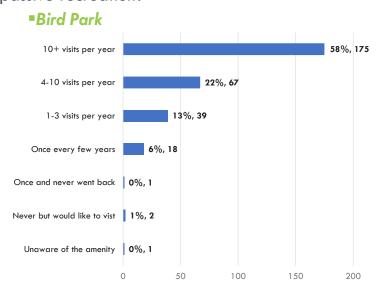
How often do you visit or use the following conservation areas for passive recreation?



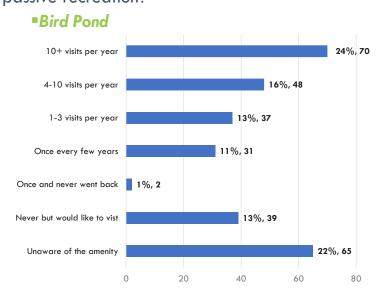
How often do you visit or use the following conservation areas for passive recreation?

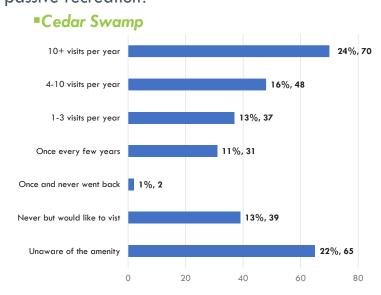


How often do you visit or use the following conservation areas for passive recreation?

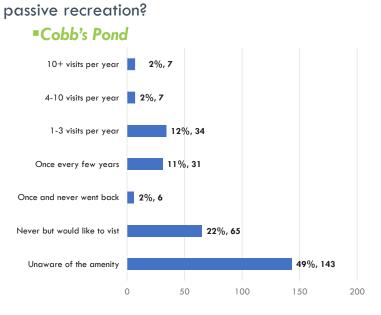


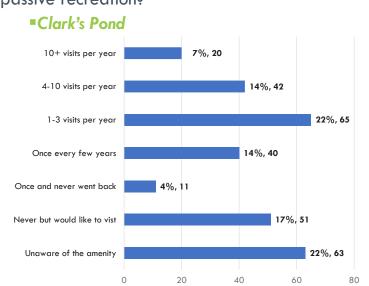
How often do you visit or use the following conservation areas for passive recreation?

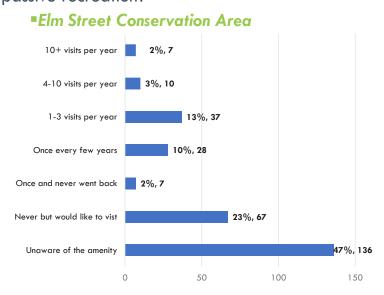


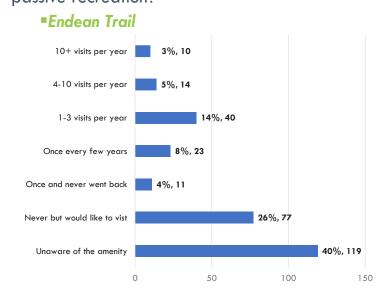


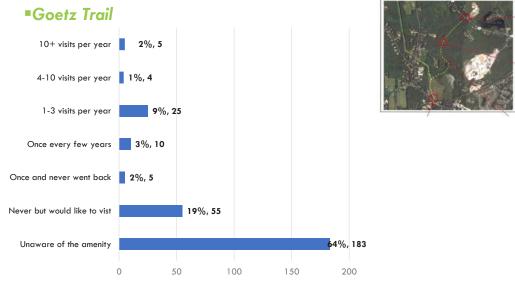
■ How often do you visit or use the following conservation areas for

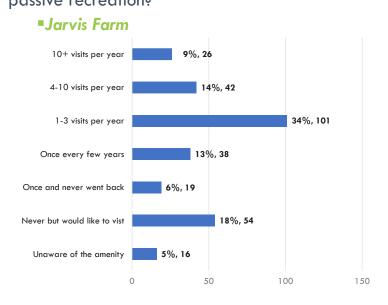


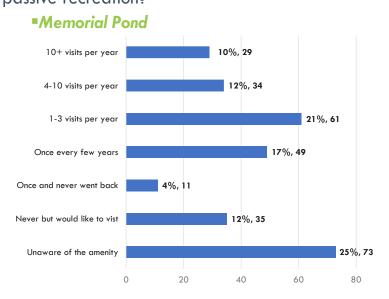




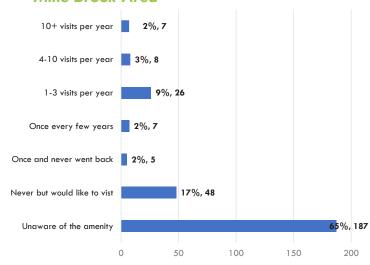




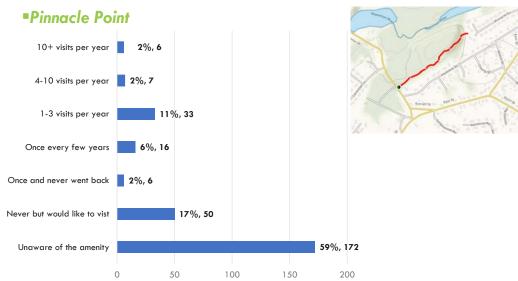


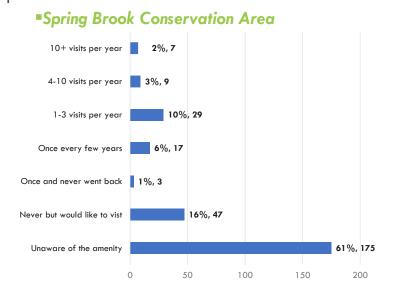


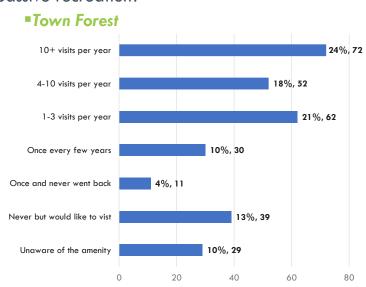
■Mine Brook Area

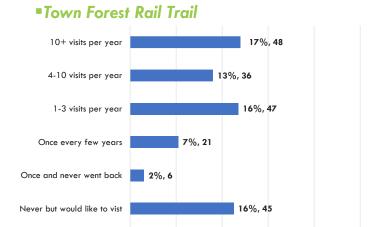












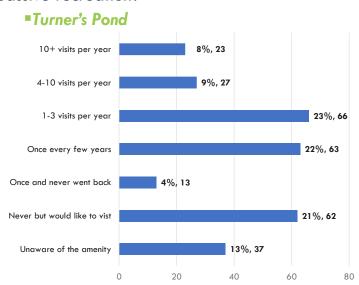
Unaware of the amenity

How often do you visit or use the following conservation areas for passive recreation?

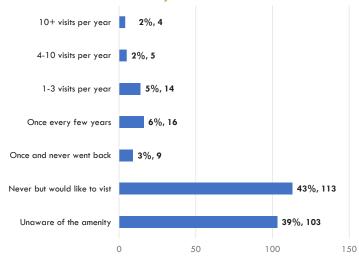
60

29%, 83

100

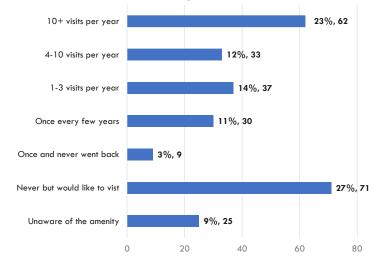




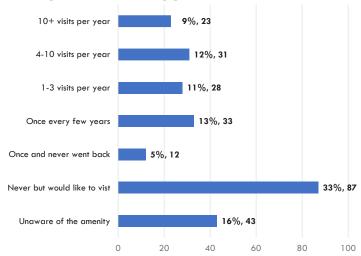


How often do you visit or use the following recreation properties for active recreation?

Bird Middle School Sports Fields

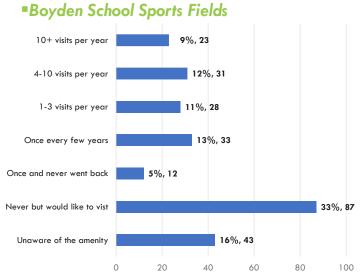




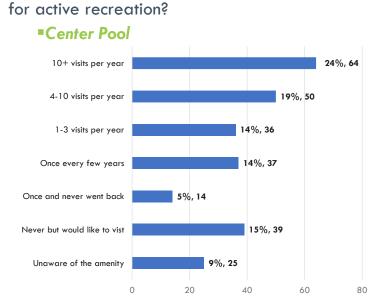


How often do you visit or use the following recreation properties

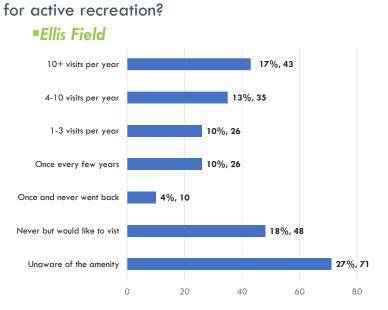
for active recreation?



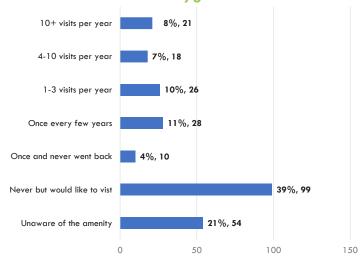
How often do you visit or use the following recreation properties



How often do you visit or use the following recreation properties

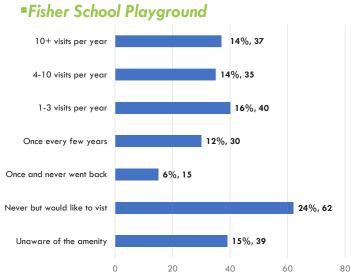




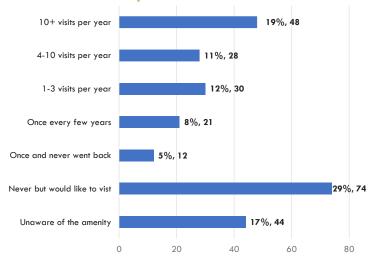


How often do you visit or use the following recreation properties for active recreation?

Tor derive recreation:







How often do you visit or use the following recreation properties

for active recreation?

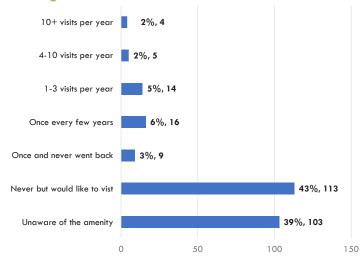
•High School Plimpton Field

Unaware of the amenity

10+ visits per year 4-10 visits per year 1-3 visits per year 15%, 38 Once every few years 12%, 31 Once and never went back 4%, 9

20%, 50

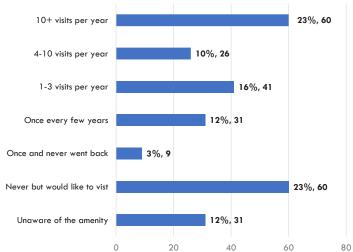


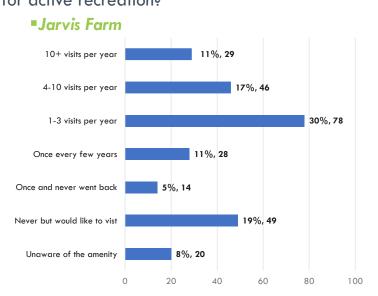


How often do you visit or use the following recreation properties

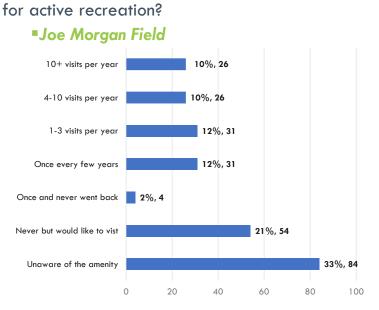
for active recreation?

High School Turco Fields

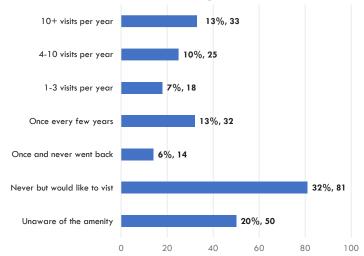




How often do you visit or use the following recreation properties

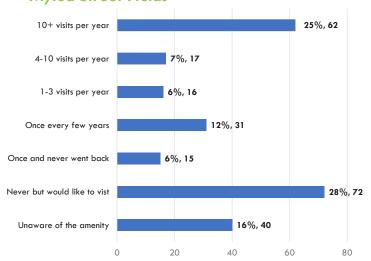




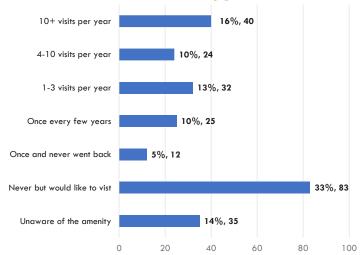


How often do you visit or use the following recreation properties for active recreation?

Mylod Street Fields

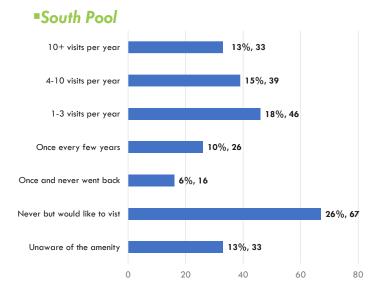




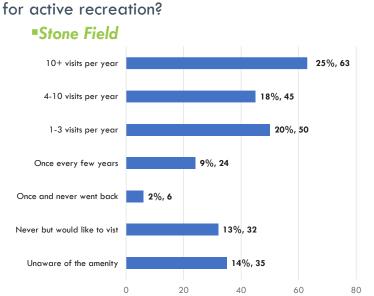


How often do you visit or use the following recreation properties

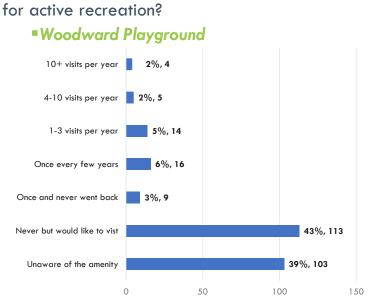
for active recreation?



How often do you visit or use the following recreation properties



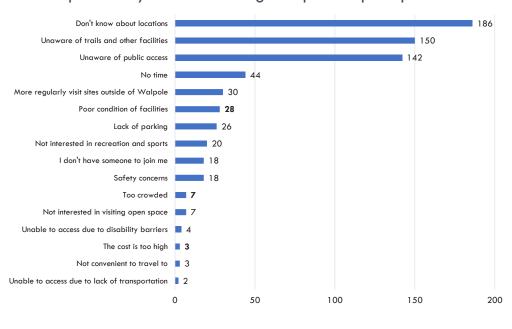
■ How often do you visit or use the following recreation properties



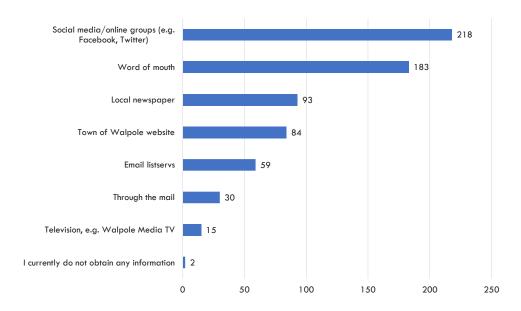


Awareness and Usage

What prevents you from utilizing Walpole's open space amenities?



How do you currently obtain information about town news, events, and activities?



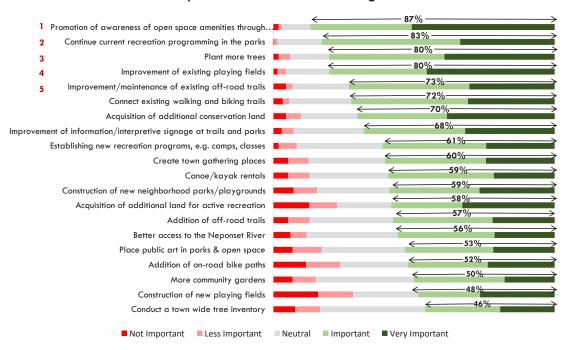
Comments on specific facilities and spaces:



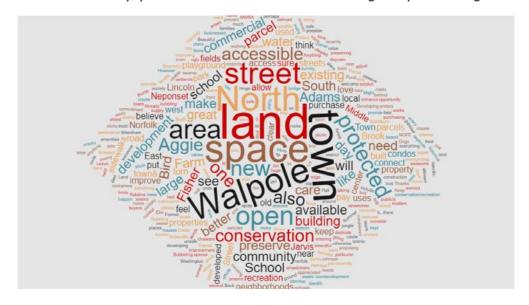
Priorities



Please rate the importance of the following:



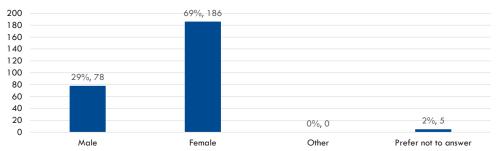
Are there any parcels the Town should investigate protecting?



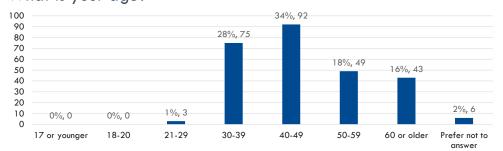


Respondent Information MAPC

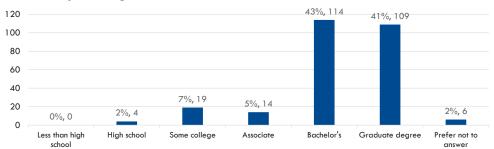
What is your gender?



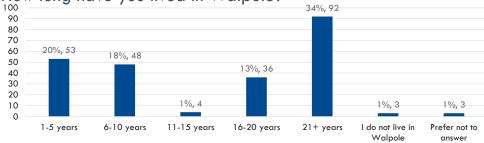
■What is your age?



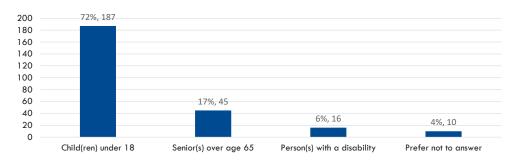
What is your highest level of educational attainment?







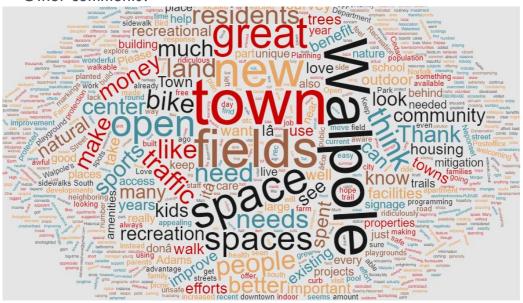
Do any members of your household match the following?



Open Responses



■ Other comments?



Walpole Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey - DRAFT

We need your input!

The Town of Walpole is updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) and we want to hear from you. Walpole's OSRP will guide the Town's actions in maintaining, protecting, and improving its open spaces, parks, and recreational resources by setting goals and priorities for the next seven years. By completing the OSRP update, the Town of Walpole will become eligible for state funds to acquire and improve conservation and recreation land. It is important that our open space and recreation amenities contribute to the character of our town and improve residents' guality of life, so we want to know what matters most to you.

Your survey answers will help the Town identify opportunities for significant, long-term preservation and improvements that provide the greatest benefit to people who live, work, and play in Walpole.

All questions are optional and your responses are kept anonymous. This survey should take no longer than ten minutes to complete and your answers are saved as you go.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Questions? Contact Landis Hershey, Conservation Agent, at Ihershey@walpole-ma.gov.

Do you agree o	r disagree with th	ne following sta	atements:		
	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion/ neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Preserving Walpole's open space and natural areas is important to me.	0	0	0	0	0
Walpole's existing open space and recreational amenities contribute positively to overall quality of life.	0	0	0	0	0
Walpole needs to proactively preserve what open space is left.	0	0	0	0	0
Walpole needs to proactively plan for the recreational needs of its residents.	0	0	0	0	0

recreation, e.g	10+ visits per year	3-10 visits per year	1-3 visits per year	Once every few years	Once and never went back	Never but would like to visit	Unaware of the amenity
Adams Farm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allen Pond	0	0	\circ	\circ	0	\circ	0
Bay Circuit Trail	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Bird Park	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0	0
Bird Pond	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Cedar Swamp	0	\circ	\circ	0	\circ	0	0
Cobb's Pond	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Clark's Pond	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Elm Street Conservation Area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Endean Trail	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Goetz Trail	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Jarvis Farm	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Memorial Pond	0	\circ	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Mine Brook Area		\bigcirc	\cap	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0

	10+ visits per year	3-10 visits per year	1-3 visits per year	Once every few years	Once and never went back	Never but would like to visit	Unaware of the amenity
Pinnacle Point	0	\circ	0	\circ	\circ	0	\circ
Town Forest	0	\circ	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Turner's Pond	0	\circ	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Cedar Swamp	0	\circ	\circ	0	\circ	0	0
Spring Brook Conservation Area	0	\circ	\circ	0	\circ	0	0
Other (Please specify)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ

	10+ visits per year	3-10 visits per year	1-3 visits per year	Once every few years	Once and never went back	Never but would like to visit	Unaware of the amenity
Bird Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boyden School	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Center Pool	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Elm Street School	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	0	\circ	\circ
Fisher School	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
High School Turco Fields	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jarvis Farm	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Johnson Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Old Fisher School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Old Post Road School	0	\circ	\circ	0	0	\circ	\circ
Plimpton Field	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Stone Field		\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ

	10+ visits per year	3-10 visits per year	1-3 visits per year	Once every few years	Once and never went back	Never but would like to visit	Unaware of the amenity
Mylod Street Fields	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Memorial Park	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Other (Please specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Don't know about locations
Unaware of public access
No time
Unable to access due to disability barriers
Unaware of trails and other facilities
Unable to access due to lack of transportation
Not convenient to travel to
More regularly visit sites outside of Walpole
Lack of parking
Not interested in visiting open space
Not interested in recreation and competitive sports
Safety concerns
I don't have someone to join me
Poor condition of facilities
Too crowded
The cost is too high
Other (Please specify)

Word of mouth
Local newspaper
Town of Walpole website
Television, e.g. Walpole Media TV
Through the mail
Social media/online groups, e.g. Facebook, Twitter
Email listservs
I currently do not obtain any information of this type
Other (Please specify)
e provide any general comments you have on specific town facilities and public spaces. better lighting, restrooms, new benches, more trees, better maintenance, etc.)

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Less Important	Not Importan
Acquisition of additional conservation land	\circ	\circ	0	0	0
Acquisition of additional land for active recreation, e.g. playgrounds, ballfields	\circ	\circ	0	0	0
Improvement of existing playing fields	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Construction of new playing fields	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Improvement of existing playing fields	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Construction of new neighborhood parks/playgrounds	\circ	0	0	\circ	0
Addition of on-road bike paths	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Addition of off-road bike trails	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Promotion of awareness of open space amenities through education and outreach	0	0	0	0	0
Improvement/maintenance of existing walking trails	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Improvement of information/interpretive signage at trails and parks	0	\circ	0	0	\circ
Connect existing walking and biking trails	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Create town gathering places	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Establishing new recreation programs, e.g. camps, classes	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Less Important	Not Important
More community gardens	0	0	0	0	0
Better access to the Neponset River	0	0	\circ	0	\circ
Canoe/kayak rentals	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Plant more trees	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Conduct a town wide tree inventory	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Place public art in parks & open space	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Continue current recreation programming in the parks	0	0	\circ	\circ	0
Other (Please specify)	0	0	0	0	0
Are there any parcels of land protecting for new conservar			investigate pu	urchasing or pe	ermanently

pr	o make sure this survey's respondent population reflects Walpole's existing demographic ofile, please tell us a little about yourself. All questions are optional and responses are kept nonymous.
W	hat is your gender?
	○ Male
	○ Female
	Other
	O Prefer not to answer
W	hat is your age?
	O 17 or younger
	O 18-20
	O 21-29
	○ 30-39
	O 40-49
	O 50-59
	○ 60 or older
	O Prefer not to answer

What is your highest level of educational attainment?
C Less than high school degree
High school degree or equivalent, e.g. GED
O Some college but no degree
Associate degree
O Bachelor's degree
Graduate degree or higher
O Prefer not to answer
How long have you lived in Walpole?
○ 1-5 years
○ 6-10 years
○ 11-15 years
○ 16-20 years
O 21+ years
○ I do not live in Walpole
O Prefer not to answer

	any members of your household - including yourself - match the following descriptions? all that apply.
	Child(ren) under 18
	Senior(s) age 65 or above
	Person(s) with a disability
	Prefer not to answer
Please	e use the space below to add any other comments you may have.
_	
_	
_	
Thank	you for taking the time to provide your input on this survey!
Thank	you for taking the time to provide your input on this survey!
Thank	you for taking the time to provide your input on this survey!
Thank	you for taking the time to provide your input on this survey!
Thank	you for taking the time to provide your input on this survey!
Thank	you for taking the time to provide your input on this survey!

Appendix

Section C: ADA Accessibility Self Evaluation

The ADA Accessibility Self-Evaluation consists of Administrative Requirements for Town of Walpole programs and policies that are reflected in the following documents:

- Designation of ADA Coordinator —
 The official designation of the employee responsible for ADA coordination with name and position title, signed by the chief municipal officer.
- **Grievance Procedures** The procedure for the general public to follow in the event that a complaint must be made.
- Public Notification Requirements Employees and the public must be notified that the community does not discriminate on the basis of disability. A copy of the Equal Opportunity Employment clause that must be included in any recruitment materials or publications and evidence that notices are also made available for the visual and learning impaired.
- Statement from the ADA Coordinator Signed statement attesting to the fact that the town's employment practices are in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. The following categories must be included in this statement: Recruitment, Personnel Actions, Leave Administration, Training, Tests, Medical Exams/Questionnaires, Social and Recreational Programs, Fringe Benefits, Collective Bargaining Agreements, and Wage and Salary Administration.

The ADA Accessibility Self-Evaluation also consists of an ADA facility inventory and transition plan for each of the Town-owned Conservation and Recreation facilities. The Town-owned facilities were evaluated for this

ADA inventory in August of 2020 and include:

- Adams Farm
- Bay Circuit Trail
- Bird Estate
- Boyden School Nature Trail
- Cedar Swamp
- Clarks Pond
- Cobbs Pond
- Elm Street School/Goetz Trails
- Jarvis Farm
- Johnson to Elm Trail
- Lincoln Road/West
- Memorial Park/Morgan Field
- Memorial Pond
- Mine Brook
- Moosehill Road/Coney Street
- Moosehill Road/Chieftan Way
- Mylod Street Fields
- Neponset River
- North Walpole
- Old Post Road School
- Pinnacle Point
- Plimpton/Endean Trail
- Spring Brook Conservation Area
- Stone Field/Spring Brook Park
- Town Forest
- Turner Pond

The on-site ADA inventory was performed using the ADA evaluation templates provided in the Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook, 2008. Many of the properties evaluated in Walpole have minimal facilities that would require ADA compliance, but all facilities listed were evaluated. A summary table shows the facilities available at each property, this is followed by more detailed evaluations and recommendations for each of the properties. It is the one of the goals of the Town to improve accessibility of facilities for all residents, including residents with special needs. The transition plan provides recommendations for how to achieve that goal.

Location	Parking	Pathway	Toilet Facility	Feature(s)	Picnic Area
Adams Farm	✓	✓	✓	Trails, gardens, barn	✓
Bay Circuit Trail		√		Trail	
Bird Estate	✓	✓		Passive recreation, trails	
Boyden School and South Pool	✓			Outdoor pool, trail, playground	
Cedar Swamp				Conservation area	
Clarks Pond	√			Picnic area, benches	✓
Cobbs Pond				Conservation area	
Elm St. School/Goetz Trails	√			Trail	
Jarvis Farm	✓			Beach, picnic tables, water access	√
Johnson to Elm Trail	√			Trail	
Lincoln Road/West				Conservation area	
Memorial Park/Morgan Field	✓	✓	✓	Baseball field, play- ground, outdoor pool, picnic area	✓
Memorial Pond	√	√		Trails, picnic area	
Mine Brook				Conservation area	
Moosehill Road/Coney Street				Conservation area	
Moosehill Road/Chieftan Way				Conservation area	
Mylod Street Fields	√			Soccer fields	
Neponset River				Conservation area	
North Walpole				Conservation area	
Old Post Road School	✓	✓		Playground, picnic area and benches	✓
Pinnacle Point				Trail	
Plimpton/Endean Trail	√			Trail	
Spring Brook Conservation Area	✓			Trails, benches	
Stone Field/Spring Brook Park	✓	✓		Baseball field, trails, passive recreation, picnic area	✓
Town Forest	√			Trails	
Turner Pond	√	✓		Beach, picnic tables, water access	√

Individual Property ADA Accessibility Self Evaluation



Adams Farm

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Gravel main parking area that is not currently accessible
Pathway	Pathways and trails are not accessible
Toilet Facility	Port a-pottie facility provided near the Adams Farm barn
Picnic Area	At the Adams Farm barn

Recommendations: Pave all or a portion of the main parking area to allow for the marking of accessible parking spaces. Connect the accessible parking spaces with an accessible path to barn and garden area.

Bay Circuit Trail

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	No dedicated parking area
Pathway	• In general, the trail is not accessible

Recommendations: Awareness and access to the Bay Circuit Trail could be improved with additional signage, particularly where the trail passes through Walpole Center. Signage could also indicated where portions of the trail are currently accessible and additional segments of the trail could be made accessible near Walpole Center.



Bird Estate

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Gravel main parking area that is not currently accessible
1	Pathway from main parking area into Bird Estate is not currently accessible

Recommendations: Pave all or a portion of the main parking area to allow for the marking of accessible parking spaces. Connect the accessible parking spaces with an accessible path to the street crossing and provide an accessible route from the street into the Bird Estate.

Boyden School Nature Trail

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Paved parking area with marked accessible parking spaces
Playground	Playground with accessible ramp to a play structure, but play structure is not accessible
Swimming Pool	Swimming pool does not offer accessible entry or lift
Recommendations: Restripe accessible parking spaces to comply with ADA regulations. Install accessible lift at pool in accordance with regulations.	

Cedar Swamp

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	No parking, accessible or otherwise, is provided
Pathway	No pathways are provided

Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently, accessibility improvements do not appear to be necessary.



Clarks Pond

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Gravel main parking area that is not currently accessible
Picnic Area	Benches, picnic tables and area with grills is not currently accessible.

Recommendations: Pave all or a portion of the main parking area to allow for the marking of accessible parking spaces. Connect the accessible parking spaces with an accessible path to the picnic area. Install a new accessible picnic table connected to the accessible path.

Cobbs Pond

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	No parking, accessible or otherwise, is provided
Pathway	No pathways are provided
Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently,	

Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently, accessibility improvements do not appear to be necessary.



Elm St. School/Goetz Trails

Facility	Evaluation	
Parking	School parking lot that is paved with accessible spaces.	
Recommendations: Trailhead is accessed from the school parking area and marked		
with signage. No accessible recommendations for this open space resource.		

Jarvis Farm

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	• Gravel main parking area that is not currently accessible

Recommendations: Pave all or a portion of the main parking area to allow for the marking of accessible parking spaces. Connect the accessible parking spaces with an accessible path to the pond activity area. Install a new accessible picnic table connected to the accessible path.

Johnson to Elm Trail

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	School parking lot that is paved, but with no marked
	accessible parking spaces
Recommendations: Restripe a portion of the parking lot to create an accessible	
parking space. Add signage to the trailhead.	

Lincoln Road/West

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	No parking, accessible or otherwise, is provided
Pathway	No pathways are provided
Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently,	

accessibility improvements do not appear to be necessary.



Memorial Park/Morgan Field

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Paved parking area with accessible spaces
Pathway	Accessible sidewalks and pathways are located between amenities
Toilet Facility	• A locker room and restroom facility is near the Center Pool, but was not available for accessibility review. Town should review this facility for accessibility and define improvements as required
Playground	The playground area is accessed by an accessible path, but is not accessible with a barrier around the entire play area and features no accessible play equipment
Swimming Pool	Swimming pool does not offer accessible entry or lift
Picnic Area	No accessible picnic areas are provided

Recommendations: Review the locker room and restroom facility near the Center Pool for accessibility and define improvements as required. Provide an accessible path into the playground area and add accessible play equipment that is accessed from the accessible path. Install accessible lift at pool in accordance with regulations. Install a new accessible picnic table connected to the accessible paths. Install new accessible viewing area at the baseball field that is connected to the accessible paths.



Memorial Pond

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Gravel main parking area that is not currently accessible
Picnic Area	Picnic area that is not currently accessible

Recommendations: Pave all or a portion of the main parking area to allow for the marking of accessible parking spaces. Connect the accessible parking spaces with an accessible path to the picnic area. Install a new accessible picnic table connected to the accessible path.

Mine Brook

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	No parking, accessible or otherwise, is provided
Pathway	No pathways are provided
Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently,	
accessibility improvements do not appear to be necessary.	

Moosehill Road/Coney Street

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	No parking, accessible or otherwise, is provided
Pathway	No pathways are provided
Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently,	
accessibility improvements do not appear to be necessary.	

Moosehill Road/Chieftan Way

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	No parking, accessible or otherwise, is provided
Pathway	No pathways are provided
Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently,	
accessibility improvements do not appear to be necessary.	



Mylod Street Fields

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Gravel main parking area that is not currently accessible
Pathway	No pathways are provided
Recommendations: Pave all or a portion of the main parking area to allow for the	

Recommendations: Pave all or a portion of the main parking area to allow for the marking of accessible parking spaces. Connect the accessible parking spaces with an accessible path to one of the soccer fields to provide an access to an accessible viewing area.

Neponset River

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	No parking, accessible or otherwise, is provided
Pathway	No pathways are provided
Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently	

Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently, accessibility improvements do not appear to be necessary.

North Walpole

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	No parking, accessible or otherwise, is provided
Pathway	No pathways are provided
Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently,	

accessibility improvements do not appear to be necessary.

Old Post Road School

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Paved parking area with accessible spaces
Pathway	Accessible pathway to playground
Playground	• Playground is not accessible and does not feature any accessible play equipment
Picnic Area	No accessible picnic area

Recommendations: Provide an accessible path into the playground area and add accessible play equipment that is accessed from the accessible path. Install a new accessible picnic table connected to the accessible paths.

Pinnacle Point

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	No parking, accessible or otherwise, is provided
Pathway	No pathways are provided
Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently,	
accessibility improvements do not appear to be necessary.	



Plimpton/Endean Trail

· ······· / · ···· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Private paved parking area nearby
Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently,	
accessibility improvements do not appear to be necessary.	



Spring Brook Conservation Area

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Small gravel parking area that is not currently accessible
Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently,	
accessibility improvements do not appear to be necessary.	



Stone Field/Spring Brook Park

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Large central parking lots with accessible spaces around the
	perimeter of the field and park
Pathway	Accessible pathway through the park does not connect to the
	baseball field
Picnic Area	No accessible picnic tables

Recommendations: Provide an accessible path that connects to the baseball field and an accessible viewing area at the baseball field. Install a new accessible picnic table connected to the accessible paths.



Town Forest

Facility	Evaluation			
Parking	Gravel main parking area that is not currently accessible			
Recommendations: Given the limited nature of access to this property currently, ac-				
cessibility improvements do not appear to be necessary.				



Turner Pond

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Gravel main parking area that is not currently accessible
Pathway	• A gravel pathway leads down to Turner Pond, but is not accessible. A ramp connects to a maintenance building on-site on the pond-side of the structure, but it is not an accessible ramp.
Picnic Area	• Picnic tables at the edge of the pond on a small beach area

Recommendations: Pave all or a portion of the main parking area to allow for the marking of accessible parking spaces. Connect the accessible parking spaces with an accessible path to the beach access area and install a new accessible picnic table connected to the accessible path.



TOWN OF WALPOLE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Walpole Town Hall 135 School Street Walpole, MA 02081 Phone (508) 660-7289 Fax (508) 660-7303

November 20, 2020

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Town of Walpole, MA ADA Coordinator

The ADA Coordinator for the Town of Walpole is:

Michael Yanovitch Building Commissioner Walpole Town Hall 135 School Street Walpole, MA 02081 508 660-7326 Myanovitch@walpole-ma.gov

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions in regards to this matter.

Sincerely,

James A. Johnson Town Administrator

Cc: Select Board

TOWN OF WALPOLE NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY (AFFIRMATIVE ACTION)

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

The purpose of this document is to outline the Town's policy of non-discrimination in all areas of employment for present and prospective employees, and to ensure compliance with applicable federal laws, state statutes, and Town by-laws. The duty to provide equal employment opportunity and to pursue affirmative action arises from Title VI and VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964, M.G.L. c. 151 (B), Executive Order #11246 (as amended), and Executive Order #227.

2. APPLICABILITY:

This policy applies to all employees of the Town of Walpole excluding those employees under the supervision and control of the School Committee.

3. DEFINITIONS:

Affirmative Action -- the commitment to the recognition, development, and utilization of the abilities of members of protected groups. Affirmative action is a process used to achieve the purpose and spirit of anti-discrimination laws.

Equal Employment Opportunity -- a course of action that ensures that hiring and other employment decisions are made solely on an individual's merit and qualifications, without regard to race, color, national origin, **gender**, age, religious or political affiliation, physical disability, sexual preference, or veteran status.

Americans with Disabilities Act -- the federal law enacted in 1990 to ensure non-discrimination in employment against qualified individuals with disabilities.

Discrimination -- unequal treatment or categorization of individuals on a basis other than individual merit such as race, **gender**, age, color, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

Individual with a Disability -- an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of his/her major life activities or who has a record of such impairment, or who is regarded as having such impairment. An individual who currently uses drugs illegally is not considered to be an individual with a disability.

Major Life Activities -- activities that an average person can perform with little or no difficulty, such as walking, speaking, breathing, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, learning, caring for oneself, or working.

Minority -- the term minority means a person with permanent residence in the United States and who are:

- Black All persons having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- Hispanic A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Central or South American origin.
- Native American All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Alaskan Native North America, and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
- Asian A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Sub-continent, or the Pacific Islands. This area includes, for example, China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands and Samoa.
- Cape Verdean A person having origins in the Cape Verde Islands.

Protected Class -- legally identified groups that are specifically protected by statute against employment discrimination.

Qualified Individual with a Disability -- an individual with a disability who meets the skill, experience, education, and other job-related requirements of a position held or desired, and who, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the particular job.

Reasonable Accommodation -- a modification or adjustment to a job, employment practices, or work environment that makes it possible for an individual with a disability to enjoy an equal employment opportunity.

Undue Hardship -- an action that is excessively costly, extensive, substantial, or disruptive, or that would fundamentally alter the nature or operation of the department.

4. POLICY:

4.1 General:

The Town of Walpole recognizes the right of individuals to work and advance on the basis of merit, ability and potential without regard to race, gender, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or age. Non-discrimination and equal opportunity will be the policy of the Town of Walpole in all of its employment programs and activities.

Toward this end, the Town of Walpole commits itself to take affirmative measures to ensure equal opportunity in the areas of hiring, promotion, demotion or transfer, recruitment, layoff or termination, rate of compensation, in-service or apprenticeship training programs, and all terms and conditions of employment. The Town of Walpole is committed to fostering and encouraging a workplace comprised of individuals of diverse backgrounds, races, genders, abilities, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and ages.

All Town employees are encouraged to take diligent, affirmative steps to ensure equal opportunity and respect for diversity, not only in the internal affairs of Town departments and agencies, but also in their relations with the public, including those persons and organizations doing business with the Town. The policy of the Town of Walpole is to:

- a) Recruit, hire and promote in all job classifications without regard to race, gender, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or age.
- b) Make decisions about employment so as to encourage the development of a diverse workforce.
- c) Ensure that employment and promotion decisions are made in accordance with the principles of equal employment opportunity, by imposing only valid, job-related requirements for employment and promotional opportunities.
- d) Ensure that all other personnel actions such as compensation, benefits, transfers, layoff, recall, training, tuition assistance, and social and recreational programs will be administered without regard to race, gender, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or age.
- e) Prohibit any kind of harassment based on race, gender, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or age.

4.2 Sexual Harassment:

The Town of Walpole will not tolerate sexual harassment in the workplace. The duty to prevent such harassment arises from M.G.L. c. 151B and from Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964, which includes sexual harassment as a form of unlawful discrimination. More information on sexual harassment is contained in Personnel Policy dated March 2017.

4.3 American's with Disabilities:

The Town of Walpole will not discriminate against people with disabilities in any employment practices or in terms or conditions of employment, including, but not limited to application, testing, hiring, assignment, evaluation, disciplinary action, training, promotion, medical examination, layoff, recall, termination, compensation, leaves or benefits. More information on the American's with Disabilities Act and Employment is contained in Personnel Policy dated July 1995.

5. COMPLAINT PROCEDURE:

- 5.1 The purpose of this procedure is to encourage local resolution of grievances concerning employment. It is important to note that grievant are not required to exhaust the Town's procedures prior to filing a state or federal complaint or taking court action.
- 5.2 Anyone who feels that he/she has been discriminated against by the Town of Walpole on the basis of race, gender, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or age in employment practices may file a grievance.
- 5.3 The grievance should be in writing and should contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of grievant and location, date and description of the problem. Reasonable accommodation, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities who are unable to submit a written complaint.
- 5.4 The grievant should first attempt to resolve the grievance at the level of the department manager. The department manager will notify the Assistant Town Administrator if such a grievance is submitted.
- 5.5 If the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the grievant, or if the department manager lacks authority or jurisdiction to correct the problem, the grievance should be submitted by the grievant and or his/her designee as soon as possible to:

Assistant Town Administrator Town Hall Walpole, MA 02081 508-660-7288

- 5.6 Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the grievance, the Assistant Town Administrator will meet with the grievant to discuss the grievance and possible resolutions. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after the meeting, the Assistant Town Administrator will respond to the grievant in writing, or, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the grievant such as audiotape. The response will explain the position of the Town of Walpole and may offer options for substantive resolution of the grievance.
- 5.7 If the response by the Assistant Town Administrator does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the grievant or his or her designee may appeal the decision of the Assistant Town Administrator to the Town Administrator by filing a written appeal within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the decision of the Assistant Town Administrator.
- 5.8 Within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the appeal, the Town Administrator will meet with the grievant to discuss the grievance and possible resolutions. Within fifteen days after the meeting with the Town Administrator, the Town Administrator will respond in writing, or, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the grievant, with a final resolution of the grievance.
- 5.9 All grievances received by the Assistant Town Administrator, appeals to the Town Administrator, and responses from same, will be kept by the Town of Walpole for at least three (3) years. Such documents will remain strictly confidential.

7. SANCTIONS

Violation of this policy will lead to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination from Town service.

Attachment A Affirmative Action Officer

James Johnson Town Administrator Town Hall 135 School Street Walpole, MA 02081 508-660-7304

Affirmative Action Officer Designee

Patrick Shield
Assistant Town Administrator
Town Hall
135 School Street
Walpole, MA 02081
508-660-7288

Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination

MCAD
One Ashburton Place
Room 601
Boston, MA 02108
617-994-6000

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

John F. Kennedy Federal Building 475 Government Center Boston, MA 02203 800-669-4000

Adopted by Board of Selectmen	Town Administrator	Personnel Board
May Gan	fiffe	all and and
Date: 10-9-18	II glaly	9/11/18



Town of Walpole Commonwealth of Massachusetts Building Department

Town Hall 135 School Street Walpole, Ma. 02081 Phone: (508) 660-7324 Fax: (508) 668-2240 myanovitch@walpole-ma.gov

November 20, 2020

RE: Statement from ADA Coordinator

To Whom It May Concern:

The Town of Walpole is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town does not discriminate based on race, sex, color, religion, age, national origin, veterans' status, disability(where it does not fundamentally alter the job, program or activity), sexual orientation or based on other non-merit factors in the hiring and promotional process. Promotions and recruitment are based on qualifications and all "help wanted" advertisements identify the Town of Walpole as an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. The Town makes all employment decisions, including leave administration, training, tests, medical exams/questionnaires, social and recreational programs, fringe benefits, collective bargaining agreements, and wage and salary administration based on merit. The Town of Walpole is committed to make reasonable accommodations for disabled persons.

Sincerely,

Michael Yanovitch
Building Commissioner
ADA Coordinator

Michael Ganovitch

Town of Walpole

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Appendix

June 2021